

# Al Akhawayn Chronicle

The Official Student Newspaper of Al Akhawayn University in Ifrane

APRIL 2016

**Hand in Hand**  
A Candle in the Wind



# EDITORIAL

To our avid and loyal readers,

First of all, I would like to thank the writers who have been motivated and committed and has put a tremendous amount of efforts and determination in the production of this issue. This would not have been possible without them. Second, I would like to thank our readers for the positive feedback and support. We hope this issue will reach more people within our community and have a larger impact.

After investigating two divisions of Al Akhawayn University in the two previous issues, the Chronicle team decided to head towards an entirely different direction and conduct an investigation about the university's oldest social club: Hand in Hand Association. This investigation is the first of many, targeting student organizations.

Once again thank you for taking the time to read the Al Akhawayn Chronicle and stay tuned for another issue next Fall semester.

*Mehdi Lehlali, Editor-in-Chief.*

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# IN THIS ISSUE

## What's Up AUI

Design for Change	4
ASFF?	4
Al Akhawayn Confessions: An expressive Tool or a Pro-Bullying Platform	5
Attempt To Drive AUIers Astray	5

<b>This Issue's Investigation: Hand in Hand: A Candle in the Wind</b>	6-7
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## Arty

Artivism (Part 2)	8
Jane Eyre: Book Review	9

<b>This Issue's Investigation: Hand in Hand: A Candle in the Wind</b>	7-8
---	-----

## Madirch F'balek

Snow (Hey Oh)	9
How to Handle Stress (Plot twist: you can't)	10
Types of Students	10

## Inking the Void

Thus Spoke the Llama	11
----------------------	----

## Sharpen Your Pencils, Share Your Thoughts

Africa, the Story of a Raped Continent	12
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# DESIGN FOR CHANGE

*Amal Atrakouti*

Design for Change is a relatively new club here at AUI. India was the starting point for this movement. And then it's thanks to people willing to bring a part of change to the world that it moved to 27 other countries all over the globe. The club focuses its efforts on children and tries to improve the conditions in which they are living in around the region of Ifrane. This club strikes to inspire children, through working with them, and making them believe that they can do what they set their minds up to. Hence the motto of the club "I can". The club holds different activities that, very usually if not always, deal with children. But the main one, that has been around for several semesters now is "Essalam School Activities": Every Monday and Thursday, a bus filled with AUI students leaves the university to meet with the children in the school. Students are to animate and lead different educational but fun activities for the 90 minutes. The activities vary from cultural contests, to puzzle and problem solving, to soccer tournaments, to cultural themed days. The club is currently working on a project that will provide Essalam children with printed books that holds different problems and activities that are to sharpen their minds and entertain them at the same time. For Fall 2015, the club worked very closely with CHU Hassan II in Fes (Centre Hospitalier Universitaire Hassan II). The club is working with the hospital's branch that deals with children suffering from bone diseases. It collected books for children from 0 to 15 years old. The books were put into the hospital's library for the children waiting for their surgeries. It also built a trolley that will make it easier for nurses to deliver the books to the patients' beds. For their fundraising, the club holds sales inside of the university. Its most infamous one yet is "Valentine's Day Letters". During Valentine's week, the club presents students with envelopes and cards to write a letter to their beloved ones. The fundraising happens by charging students for every letter sent in or outside campus. As for the members of the club, they all seem to be one little family that operates every week for accomplishing their part of the change they're supposed to bring to the world. And to make this experience more enjoyable and to tighten the links more the club organizes a team building activity. Very often, this activity consists of a dinner that all members attend and enjoy a meal all together. Clubs are a huge opportunity for students to do well and enrich their inner welfare. As we all know, one's happiness sometimes depends on others' efforts. And it is absolutely fascinating what a couple people armed with their drive can do to make of simple rooms and very basic equipment a suitable place for learning. No one who's seen the children in Ifrane and its area would deny that the institutions here lack a lot of important things in an educational place. But one thing is sure, the efforts put by the staff, faculty of the school and volunteers of the university will never go to waste. Because by the simple words of James Doolittle: "There's nothing stronger than the heart of a volunteer".

DESIGN *for*  
CHANGE

# ASFF

*Sarah Allouche*

Last semester, when I made the big mistake of leaving everything to the last minute and I started hoping and praying for some miracle to happen and end up somehow doing my whole work at the right time. I had this FAS 0210 (yes do not underestimate the power of that course please) project and it involved coming up somehow with a play involving everything we have learned (but never used) during this whole course. My teammates and I, thought of it as the chance or never to make a short film about it (not exactly a play but it does the job). After staying up late and struggling with coming up with something acceptable, well it was not a work to be praised for. Only god knows how much we were graded for that project. Fortunately, for those who consider themselves creative filmmakers in the AUI community. AUI's short film festival is your best chance to prove that. This event in collaboration with the Moroccan short film festival of Rabat, aims at discovering talented and passionate filmmakers. This festival was initiated by SHSS mainly by Pr. Naziha Houki and other professors and also students. The festival hosts professional filmmakers to decide on the best short film. Unlike last year where only two categories figured on the festival: Fiction and Music Video, this year two categories will be added: documentary and also advertisement. Moreover there will be a discussion panel about the award winning short movies in the Rabat short films festival. Enough of information, which you can find on the official page of the festival on Facebook, whatever information you need figures there. Let's talk about what needs to be promoted on this festival. After watching a movie you probably question yourself about what was the subliminal and hidden message on this piece of dynamic art, one tries to encrypt it to come up with a moral, a lesson whatever the term one decides to use. In fact, one when trying to come up with a movie, it is important to consider the techniques to use, the talent of shooting the series of scenes, of editing, of the long and not easy process of coming up with a film. Because after all in a way or another watching a movie is supposed to be an entertainment and when one is hit by a low quality movie, with bad actors and horrible soundtrack well we actually so call watch it and end up dozing off or getting interested in the beautiful forms of popcorn rather than watching the actual movie. In my humble opinion, all those technical aspects contribute to one purpose: transferring the intended message. This message, one cannot exactly force filmmakers to transfer a specific message (it is unrespectable and very inappropriate) because if there is a second value that we expect This Festival to promote it is the freedom of expression. Yes all of you are waiting to hear the name of that movie yes here it goes MUCH LOVED. (please don't hurt me) with all the scenery it has caused lately one cannot go without skipping it. Every time the filmmaker has been cornered for producing such film his first defense would be I am trying to give shot of reality here. Yes we know thank you, you did a nice job and you are right we are in a serious need of fighting for freedom of expression. Especially, with the shaming ranking of 130 over 180 country in freedom of press. Except one needs to consider the audience he/she is aiming to reach and you are not changing any fact or occurrence by offending people, in fact you are giving them a reason to criticize and ignore the message you are trying to put a light on and make them hold on to futilities. Let's go back to this complex idea of transferring a message. Since we are in an era where much is happening but propaganda is shading everything, and destroying the truth. Therefore, it is the duty of the passionate youth to uncover this truth, to come up with ways to highlight strikes on human rights such as domestic violence, oppression of individuals, the dead silence over the Israeli palistinian conflict, the growing number of refugees, and the struggle of illegal immigrants. I am not saying it's either addressing such issues or the work is the equivalent of nothingness, but I believe that this Festival is the chance to not only show how talented you are but how much you are concerned to change a little bit of our world by revealing its worse scenarios. It is indeed about making a point, about leaving a print.

# AL AKHAWAYN CONFESSIONS: AN EXPRESSIVE TOOL OR A PRO-BULLYING PLATFORM?

*Sahar Ajjab*

Have a secret crush? Want to talk about it anonymously? This is how Al Akhawayn confessions page got its followers attention. They basically provided the public with a platform in which they had total freedom of speech and anonymity, two things that are highly restricted in present Morocco. The aim of this page was to allow students to deliver their unsaid messages, to express their intellectual minds and of course, confess their heartwarming feelings for a certain someone. However, it was soon noticed that the confessions on the page took a completely different turn. Sure, it's still used to express feelings, mainly strong ones. Students enjoyed the unusual margin of freedom they had, and the "protection of the source" rule to bully, insult, and objectify each other. The way students reacted destroyed the unity that the page wanted to reinforce within campus. Countless unnamed confessions about sex, love, and alcohol. The whole meaningful aspect of self-expressing sort of turned into a way to judge or to complain about someone. Most of the comments either criticized the post, insulted the "concept" or made fun of the person. The content became less interesting by the day, and people got bored of senseless topics that advocate discomfort. Some comments even took criticism into a whole different level and were referred to by fellow students to be racist. If anything, this page only promoted hate and facilitated the spread of hate speech, which of course is prohibited by law. Therefore, when anonymity and freedom of speech turn into a method of bullying and harassment, the university becomes responsible for the mental safety of their students. Another apparent reality of Al Akhawayn confessions is the way non-AUIers perceived it. Some people interpreted the "quality of content" provided on the page as a way to damage

the university's reputation. Most of the confessions published were perceived as rude and unethical, failing to positively represent the "educated elite" of the country. However, these types of platforms where anonymity plays an important role often raise the question of security and censorship. Most students, when reading confessions or comments, found themselves questioning the different mentalities within campus. The current content of the page triggered a lot of controversy around whether it should be kept or completely removed. Business major Student L said "AUI confessions should stay, because it's fun and entertaining. It gives you an insight on what people think about the university, each other etc..." In a counter response though, Communication major student A. finds the page superficial and inappropriate. "This page should be removed by the university immediately" Another student T. agreed with him and stated that the page in a threat to the university and its students' reputation.

Al Akhawayn confessions greatly promotes freedom of speech; however, do these confessions appeal to the reality of the university? Are the people participating in this anonymous initiative really trying to express themselves; or are they just not aware of the serious consequences that their words have on others and the institutions image and quality of education?

# ATTEMPT TO DRIVE AUIERS ASTRAY

*Oumaima Maliki*

I shall mention the fact that I am submitting my article very late compared to the other chroniclers, (one week after), so I had to endure my editor in chief's weird frowning when we come across, and I had to make up very sophisticated lies whenever he asks if the article is ready (I have some talent to be honest).

AUIers, this is the time of the semester again when you have a load of papers to write, teamwork where usually and oddly every team seems to be smart expect yours, all your professors enjoy scheduling midterms in the same week, and of course your life is so perfect and all that was missing is snow (yeay?) . No worries I have got a bunch of solutions that will be of better help for those of you who feel like committing a suicide (try building 4, very high and the view is great for a last minute affair) or those who just consider stepping by the enrollment office for a withdrawal form after their 8am class.

I will provide you with bits and pieces of tips and hacks I had the chance to discover during my stay at AUI:

**1.If you don't feel like waking up for a class, DONT** : it is as easy as it seems. You are tired, you had a midterm yesterday and you just feel like skipping your first class (The second and the third also?) do it you deserve it, isn't this the spirit of college? Making our own decisions as grownups do? Doing what we want to do because we are young, wild and free? So yes, don't wake up early just because you have class, life is too short to waste on morning classes.

**2.You have 7 absences, use them:** I really don't understand people who end their semester with 0 hours of absence, I mean really? Who do you think you are? Master of the world? No you are not, you are just afraid to make a move forward. You are scared to do take a step into a new different world, and you are way too weak to start this rebellion act of "Absence". But believe me; you will regret this weakness once you are 70 years old sitting in your porch thinking of all the absences you did not use when had got the chance to do so.

**3.Curfew, what is that?** Shame on you, you let the university policies shape your college experience, why would you let strangers tell you when to come back to campus? What if you don't want to come back before midnight on Monday? I am sure most of AUIers don't want this to happen, trust me magic happens after midnight, and you know where? Outside AUI.

**4.Take 5 classes per semester. What are we? Robots?** We should be aware of the fact that scientifically, no human kind can grasp five classes' information in one semester (one week during finals). It is beyond impossible to understand all the five and pass them all. Professors are too demanding and each one of them thinks that his or her class is the only one in our schedule. Not so fair right? To make them regret, drop the 5 classes at once, show them that you are the boss, you make the rules and they shall respect them.

# HAND IN HAND

Mehdi Lehlali

On the occasion of this year's Fun Run, the editorial team of Al Akhawayn Chronicle decided to conduct an extensive investigation about Hand in Hand Association, which is stated by Dr. Agnaou as "the main philanthropic arm of the university". This investigation will take you back over 20 years ago, when Hand in Hand (previously Charity Association) was founded. We contacted many board members from years ago such as Mounia Tagma and Nadia Sandi who gladly accepted to answer our inquiries. We also contacted current executive leaders to give us an insight on the association's present status and performance within the social branch of AUI. This investigation serves as a tribute to many people who worked tirelessly to make this club what it is today, namely: Mrs. Maria Achour Belmokhtar, Rev. Karen Thomas Smith, Dr. Abderahim Agnaou, Mr. Mohamed Bouia, Taha Benzoum, Amine Bajeddi and many others.

## DR. ABDERAHIM AGNAOU FORMER ADVISOR:

**Q. How did you get involved with the Hand in Hand Association and why aren't you very active with the association anymore?**

A. First off, thank you for interviewing me about AUI's main philanthropic arm "Hand in Hand." I got involved with the Hand in Hand Association back in 2006 as a well-wisher and sympathizer thanks to the life-changing work of two inspirational individuals that I respect and admire, namely Mme Maria Achour Belmokhtar, former advisor of the Association, through the revenue-generating women's cooperative Khbizat Al Atlas and Rev. Kathen Thomas Smith in her capacity as AUI's community partner through the Tarmilat Weavers Project, another income-generating project for underprivileged women in rural Ifrane. Those two projects were eye-opening to me, and as soon as I joined in the efforts of Hand in Hand, I realized that I could do something by giving a helping hand. After these two actions, and as Mme Belmokhtar was about to leave AUI for new horizons, I was recommended to President Ouauoucha as a new advisor for the Association. When I voluntarily took over this new task, my main objective was to introduce some reforms in operations by working on a manual of procedures (still an unfinished project). As advisor of the Association, I witnessed and participated at various degrees in many great student-led achievements such as the annual school bag campaign, the joint relief efforts with AUI's Rotaract Club and Association Tigrira in Azrou to rescue the victims of Hachada floods, medical campaigns, etc.

Now for the second part of your question. There are two reasons why I haven't been that active with Hand in Hand over the last two years as I would like to. First, I was appointed Undergraduate Studies Coordinator at SHSS, and because of the many responsibilities that position comes with, I couldn't keep up with the agendas of the weekly meetings and I couldn't devote quality time to adequately and properly advise the Association. Second, in the absence of a dedicated advisor and in the presence of misadvising exercised on some "elected" board members, it was concluded that the As-

sociation can be fine the way it is. So, when the Student Activities Office realized the existence of some management irregularities and mishaps within the Association that were attributed to some former board members and in reaction to my insistence on introducing reforms (the unfinished project), for an unknown reason, some members just stopped approaching me as advisor. Up until now, I am still the official advisor of the Association, and I'd be happy to work with any students who think I can be of any assistance.

**Q. What's your feedback on the Association's performance over the last 2 years?**

A. The performance is great in terms of the funds raised in the Fun Run. However, the close impact the Association used to have on the local population through a number of operations such as the Mobile Library, the tutoring sessions, the medical caravans, the school bag campaign, the donation campaigns of firewood, boots, cloths, food etc. has dwindled tremendously. As opposed to the past, many students now regrettably see in Hand in Hand the Fun Run only. They fail to realize that it is the General Coordinator of the Association who used to do the "run" (admin work and fieldwork) after the "fun" (partying) was over.

**Q. What are some difficulties Hand in Hand faces in the Fun Run and other activities in general?**

A. Like I said earlier, once the "fun" is over, the "run" is left for the General Coordinator to deal with. In addition to this, the Association members now are not good at writing annual reports as their former peers. I used to help them a lot in this task when they asked. The major difficulties in the Fun Run, I think, are those related to contracts and commitments with the various artists and stakeholders taking part in the fundraising. The SAO Director usually keeps track of these, but some members made it difficult through some obstinate resistance.

**Q. Any advice you would like to give to Hand in Hand? Now that you see the Association from a different perspective, or from the "outside", would you like to give them any message?**

A. Being advisor is a voluntary task, and the advisor's job is to give advice to whomever asks for it and has the ability to listen. If no one asks for advice, I will not impose it, as simple as that! Since you asked, the main piece of advice I would give to the current board members of the Association is to close their eyes and ears to the negative language going around them and get rid of any toxic relationships that can impede their way forward. Conflicts and problems arise, but they are great learning lessons when they are dealt with professionally. If I can be of any help in solving any problems, I'd be more than happy to assist. In addition, the arms of the University are always open to its active students who want to thrive and succeed in what they do. Mahatma Gandhi once said "Be the change that you wish to see in the world" and I wholeheartedly believe that students have the potential and power to make a change in their world. All they need to do is ask for assistance and guidance, as they can't do much without the advice of experienced people who have some institutional memory. Being active in clubs and associations is a great learning experience, so make it worth the time you spend. Once your student career comes to a close and you prepare

to leave for the job market, you will have to hand over the torch to other students. The University will always be here to help any new students in running the association, but of course we will always welcome your assistance as alumni. Once an AUIer, always an AUIer!

## MRS. MOUNIA TAGMA FORMER PRESIDENT:

**Q. Could you please introduce yourself and tell us a little bit about your days at Al Akhawayn University?**

A. My first year at AUI (1999) was also my second back in Morocco after living abroad for many years. It therefore was a time of re-discoveries and great encounters. AUI gave me the opportunity to meet with people from all over Morocco and beyond. I took great advantage of the extra-curricular activities that the University offers and learned a lot from them.

**Q. You were one of the first presidents of Hand in Hand. Now that many years have passed, what do you think of the club's evolution?**

A. I hear that Hand in Hand has grown and has been able to help a lot more people. It's wonderful to see that a project we have contributed to build is now a success thanks to the work other cohorts of students put into it. I am happy I was part of this adventure and I look forward to seeing it grow even more and contribute to the development of the Region.

**Q. You most certainly did a lot for Hand in Hand and your achievements speak for you. However, my question is: what did Hand in Hand offer you in return?**

A. So much! Let me focus on two. One is "purpose" and it is related to your previous question. Hand in Hand helped me realize that my professional career had to be in development or public service. In other words, it gave me a purpose in life. The other one is "gratitude." With Hand in Hand, we worked a lot with children, and children are naturally grateful. Gratitude gives you the boost to do even more and be happy about it.

**Q. Do you still keep in touch with old students who worked with you during your Hand in Hand days? Did being active at AUI help you create a network of people?**

A. I have kept in touch with AUI friends, including with some who volunteered with Hand in Hand. AUI alumni share part of their identity and constitute a large network today, both in Morocco and abroad. I think that what makes strong networks is the time and the experiences shared, and AUI students have that. Who doesn't remember an evening or even a night at the lab? a major snow storm? the discovery of the add/drop?

**Q. Any advice or insight you would like to share with the AUI community?**

A. Believe in what you do and do what you believe in. School is there to help you acquire the skills you need to pursue your dreams but it is not everything.

# A CANDLE IN THE WIND

## SAMIR ROUINI FUN RUN GENERAL COORDINATOR & CURRENT VICE PRESIDENT:

**Q. Can you please introduce yourself and tell us a bit about your career Hand in Hand?**

A. I, Samir Rouini, am the acting Vice President of Hand in Hand association and this year's Fun Run General coordinator. I started volunteering in the association's actions since my first semester 5 years ago. Tutoring sessions were and are still my favorite part of the different actions and events the association organizes. Although donations can make a difference in some special cases, I have always believed in sustainable development projects. Investing in children and their education is the main reason I have opted for Hand in Hand ahead of other clubs. After three years of volunteering both in the Fun Run and in the weekly tutoring sessions, I was elected as a school coordinator and a Race coordinator in the Fun Run.

**Q. Can you please tell us a bit about this year's Fun Run? What is the project you're working on and are you right on schedule so far? Tell us more about the preparations.**

A. Last year, our university signed a convention with Samsung Corporation to build computer laboratories for schools in the region of Ifrane. Since then, six schools have laboratories with 20 laptops each. Our coordinators offer computer literacy skills classes to the children in the schools as part of the convention. Feedback from the school directors is very positive and the children show great motivation for the sessions.

This year, in addition to the usual rehabilitation of the primary schools we sponsor, we are hoping to double the number of laptops in the laboratories. Once the Fun Run team agrees on which project we will work on, the proposed project will be approved by a committee, which consists of the President of Al Akhawayn University, the Vice President of Students Affairs, the Students Activities Office Director, and our advisors. This is the most important part of the Fun Run.

You do not realize how huge and important it is until you become a Fun Run coordinator and have the responsibility at hand. Its success over the past few years puts the team under a lot of pressure to make it even bigger than the previous ones. Our main aim is to collect the biggest amount of funds possible for our projects and for the children of the region of Ifrane.

**Q. Do you have any future projects after the Fun Run? - Hand in Hand has been a pillar of the social branch of Al Akhawayn University. However, its visibility and notoriety has been decreasing over the years. How do you explain that?**

A. Our work does not stop when the Fun Run day is over. Our projects are different from one another (Khbizat Atlas, Samsung, and school rehabilitation), where each one demands a particular attention with specified and targeted goals. The Fun Run is our major fundraising source for these projects but also for our other activities; tutoring sessions and donations. These projects are also particular on their own. We always look for something new to do and that has never been done in the region before. I do not share the impression that the visibility and the notoriety of our Association is decreasing. On a national basis, we organize the biggest student run charity event in the country. Internally, we keep filling the biggest number of sign-up sheets in every club fair which is a good indicator of how popular the association is among students. The board holds internal meetings with the coordinators on a weekly basis. We organize general meetings for volunteers twice a month. We care more about having volunteers near the Bus Shelter for the tutoring sessions rather than having a full auditorium in the General Meetings. We do not measure our success based on the number of students we have as members, but on the number of committed people working and dedicating part of their time for the association. As far as our activity's success, we measure it by the smiles we put weekly on the children's faces.

**Q. We heard that the last Fun Run profit margin was low. Something close to 90% of expenses. Can you please give us some figures? What is your evaluation of that result and what are you planning to do to increase the revenues?**

A. I am not sure about your claim but what I can say is that we will always be the victims of our own success. Previous boards have achieved so much that relatively smaller achievements will be seen as a failure by others. It's true that we had some issues in 2015 regarding the financial report of the last Fun Run, but it had been solved. However, we still consider the previous Fun Run a success. The expenses of the event were nothing close to 90% of our total income, but far less than that.

**Q. What can you say to our community to get them involved in Hand in Hand?**

A. If you are a hardworking machine wanting to be part of a committed and motivated team, and you have ambitious ideas to make the region of Ifrane a better one, then Hand in Hand is where you belong.

## MRS. MARIA ACHOUR BELMOKHTAR FORMER ADVISOR AND "MOTHER" OF HAND IN HAND:

**Q. First of all, the editorial team and the Student Activities Office are grateful to have your contribution in this newspaper. This interview serves as a tribute, which I think is long overdue, given your remarkable contribution to Hand in Hand association.**

A. All I can say is that the ten years I have spent at AUI were a unique parenthesis in my life and I have gathered some memories and experiences I will cherish for the rest of my life.

**Q. Can you take us back to the starting point of Hand in Hand back in the late 90s? What was it like and how was it done?**

A. Mr. Belmokhtar and I arrived on campus on 1998, when he was appointed president of the university. Back in those days a charity association already existed as it was inspired from the American concept of charity, which exists in all universities. However, after some time we started thinking about changing the name "Charity Association" because the word "charity" has a pejorative meaning to some extent here in Morocco. So, we decided to change the name to "Hand in Hand" which applies more to our values and vision.

**Q. You are known among the older generations of AUIers as the "Mother" of Hand in Hand. My question is: are satisfied with what your child grew up to be? Did you imagine such a success for the association 20 years ago?**

A. First of all, I am happy to see that a project we started 20 years ago is still getting bigger and achieving great things. All I can say is that current volunteers and members should not lose faith and keep focused on their main goal which is alleviating poverty and providing children of Ifrane with opportunities for a better life. For the second part of your question, to be honest, I did not imagine that the project would be this successful given the many difficulties we had at the beginning.

**Q. Thank you for answering our questions and we really hope you will be amongst us in upcoming Hand in Hand events.**

A. I would be happy to attend. I want to end this interview by saying that it is heartwarming to see that students are still active and are still willing to make a change. Don't lose faith!!

# ARTIVISM (PART 2)

*Ouejdane Sabbah*

Let's face it; if you are reading this, then you probably are privileged. For the simple reason that you know how to read a language that is considered the key to the modern world. Plus, you are probably in Al Akhawayn University. Your presence here as a staff, a faculty or even better a student makes you fortunate. AUI is known for being a prestigious university in Morocco and your access to its locals makes you somehow a part of a "tight" number of the actual Moroccan population. Don't get me wrong, being advantaged is not a crime. However, taking it as a fact that you are entitled the life you're having now is candid. Recognizing that privilege is a huge step toward self-awareness. Somehow, we need a little reminder that we are lucky. Movies can fulfill this function as they introduce us to new feelings we may have never experimented before.

On the previous issue, I introduced you to Artivism - This concept of mixing both art and activism- based on a selection of musical tracks that inspired me to change the world. This time, I will target the seventh art. Cinema. Here is a selection of my TOP 10 artist movies.

Disclaimer: This selection is based solely on my taste and feelings (I know better...)

Almost all the movies are fictional or based on a true story.

SPOILER ALERT

## 1. V For Vendetta

In a Dystopian future, a British corrupted, fascist, and totalitarian government does everything to find a "terrorist": a mysterious man named Guy Fawkes, also known under the name "V", is seeking revenge from those who wronged him. To accomplish his goal, Evey Hammond a young woman is helping him to ignite a revolution. Their slogan is fearless: Strength through unity. Their goal? Freeing the tortured and prejudiced minorities by destroying the symbol of the British government: The parliament. When? The 5th of November because this date hides a heavy history of secrets for Guy Fawkes. Nonetheless, Detective Fitcher is trying to stop them, but the more he knows about Guy Fawkes' past the more his is going to be tortured by one question: "Am I in the right side?"

Are you?

*Powerful lines of the Movie:*

Evey: We are told to remember the idea, not the man, because a man can fail. He can be caught, he can be killed and forgotten, but 400 years later, an idea can still change the world.

V: People should not be afraid of their governments. Governments should be afraid of their people.

## 2. Slumdog millionaire

Three children (Jamal Malik, Salim and Latika) coming from the slums of India are growing up to follow different paths. Jamal narrate their story while he was participating to the Indian version of "Who Wants To Be a Millionaire". It is the "tale" of a street kid is one question away from being a millionaire and finding the love of his life.

The catchy melody of 'Jai-Ho' cannot make you forget that behind the beauty of India, lies the ugly truth of a developing country struggling with street children that either finish as poor, prostitutes or criminals.

*Powerful Lines from the movie:*

Jamal Malik: [to an American tourist couple] You wanted to see a bit of the real India?

Jamal Malik: [angrily to the cop] Here it is!

## 3. Rabbit Proof Fence

This movie describes White Supremacy at its finest. 1931, in Western Australia 3 aboriginal girls are taken away from their mothers to camps where they are enslaved in order to fit in the "white civilized society". However, they escape. It's the story of three girls looking for their mother and rejecting "civilization" for their "savage" life.

*Powerful Lines from the Movie:*

A.O.Neville: Just because people have Neolithic tools, Inspector, doesn't mean they have Neolithic minds.

## 4. The City Of God

Based on the true story of the photographer Paulo Lins, this movie pictures the life of several children raised in the violent favela of "Cidade de God" in Rio De Janeiro during the 60's and 70's. Looking for a way out of poverty, some chose crimes and drug dealing and Buscapé (a character inspired from Paulo Lins) relies on photography by reporting the everyday life in the slums. The crew is picked from actual children living in the "Cidade de God"

*Powerful lines from the movie:*

Sandro Cenoura: Have you lost your mind? You are just a kid!

Filé-com-Fritas - Steak and Fries: A kid? I smoke, I snort. I've killed and robbed. I'm a man

## 5. Ali Zaoua, Prince of the Streets

Before the controversy of Nabil Ayouch "Much Loved" movie, this director raised voice of indignation in the 00's with his movie "Ali Zaoua, Prince of the Streets" which follows the life of 4 homeless children in the slums of Casablanca. The streets are a background of a Tyrant that killed one of them. The friends of the martyr decided to honor him by offering him an incredible funeral. Hopes and dreams (and sniffing glue too) are their only way to keep them living. Like "City of God" most of the actual casting crew is in fact homeless children in real life.

## 6. The Help

Let me get this straight: I didn't cry in Titanic ... heck I don't even cry when a dog dies in a movie.

Now you have an idea of how much of a cold-hearted person I can be sometimes. However, this movie made me drown in a sea of used tissues (in a positive way, please). In Jackson Mississippi during the 60's a new form of slavery take place in: The Help. As this term designate the black maids that raise the white kids in the rich privileged white families. Poorly remunerated and subject of segregation, they undergo a cruel treatment from their employers. A young freshly graduated white woman Skeeter Stone is determined to write a book about the lives of those Maids that none care about.

*Powerful lines from the movie*

Aibileen Clark: I was born 1911, Chicksaw County, Piedmont Plantation.

Skeeter: And did you know as a girl growing up that one day you'd be a maid?

Aibileen Clark: Yes ma'am, I did.

Skeeter: And you knew that because...

Aibileen Clark: My mama was a maid. My grandmama was a house slave.

## 7. Sur Le Chemin de L'école

I decided to break my own rule and feature a remarkable documentary in this selection

Four children (Jackson, the Kenyan; Carlito, the Argentinian; and Zahira, the Moroccan; Samuel, the Indian) have never met each other. Yet they have a common goal: Get an education. It is really hard for them as they have to cover long distance to reach their school. We follow them through this dangerous journey to school where their only power is the force of their determination and will. Do you really want to whine about this 9am class now?

*Powerful Lines of the Movie:*

- We often forget that going to school is a chance.

## 8. Sleeping with the enemy

This movie is an illustration of what it is like to live with an abusive partner. A woman tries to escape her abusive husband by changing her identity. Yet, she lives in fear and can't seem to open herself up to another caring relationship.

As domestic violence is a huge problem in Morocco, this movie came to clear up our confusion and answer our naive question "But if her/his partner is abusive, why didn't he/she leave them?"

*Powerful lines from the Movie:*

The husband: I can't live without you. And I won't let you live without me.

## 9. To Write Love On Her Arms

Based on a true story that inspired a global movement. "To Write Love On her Arms" is a movie that treats the stigma around mental illness as this movie trace back the life of a girl, Renee Yohe, struggling with bipolar disorder and later with addiction to cocaine. From self-harm to sexual assault, it covers the broken life of a girl asking for help when none believes in her anymore except a previous cocaine addict, David McKenna, that takes her under his roof.

*Powerful lines from the Movie:*

David McKenna: Rough night?

Renee Yohe: Rough life!

## 10. Dear White People

The prestigious university of Winchester has a serious problem with diversity. Things are going to get out of hands when white students are planning to organize a Halloween party themed "Afro-American" that black students despise. Following the lead of Sam White, an anarchic black girl who wants to bring back Black to Winchester, they create a riot that put the reputation of the university in a delicate position. Treating racism and homophobia in all its forms, this intellectual satire asks an important question: How can I know when we reached equality and when does the fight for equal rights stops?

*Powerful lines from the movie:*

Sam White: Black people can't be racist. Prejudice, yes, but not racist. Racism describes a system of disadvantage based on race. Black people can't be racist since we don't stand to benefit from such a system.

# BOOK REVIEW: JANE EYRE

*Imane Chkhoukout*

One of the most inspiring characters I've encountered in the books I read is Jane Eyre, from the eponymous novel. If there's one issue that is widespread nowadays and could use some redefining (if I may say) it's feminism. Feminists seem to have lost sight of their original ideals. However, Jane Eyre didn't. She stands tall and firm against all oppressors and defends women the way it should be done. She may not be real but what she fights for certainly is. Jane Eyre refuses to see women treated poorly while men are given all of their rights and more. She refuses the fact that a woman should be considered weak just because she happens to be the emotional gender. And this is where her strength lies.

Jane Eyre grew up mostly alone, having only her unloving aunt, her children, and the servants as a company, whom all didn't show her any kindness whatsoever. But despite everything, Jane managed to find her way through life. During her teenage years, her aunt decided to send her to Lowood, a girls only boarding school to get rid of her, which made her even more miserable at first. But as time passed, she learned to find the silver linings of it, and turned things to her advantage. Maybe she wasn't born with a silver spoon in her mouth, but things didn't have to stay that way.

Behind every strong woman is a man... who's chasing her. When Jane first met Mr. Rochester, for whom she used to work, she couldn't even consider a relationship. What could a wealthy and powerful man possibly like in a young woman who came from a lower social class? Everything apparently. Their mutual attraction brought them together. The first days were the best. Their eyes were veiled, their hearts chanting, their senses obstructed. Love is a strong opium. For a while they both couldn't tell wrong from right. But Jane eventually had enough of it. She couldn't admit the fact that a man was toying with her feelings and was trying to treat her as property. So she gave herself the means to act according to reason, and not to pursue her heart against all and everything. She just packed and left without leaving the slightest clue of where she was going, leaving her man bereft. She was ready to give up on what may have been the love of her life only to keep her pride. Days went by, and both of them suffered, not knowing how to live without the other. Unlike most love stories, this one doesn't have a happy ending, but quite the opposite. They both had to make tremendous sacrifices to reconcile with each other.

If there's one lesson to learn from this book, and not only for girls and women, it is most definitely about self respect. You shouldn't let anyone treat you inferiorly or control your whims. Stand for yourself like Jane did and don't let anyone undermine you or disrespect you, no matter what they have to offer. Because nothing is worth your self confidence.

# SNOW (HEY OH)

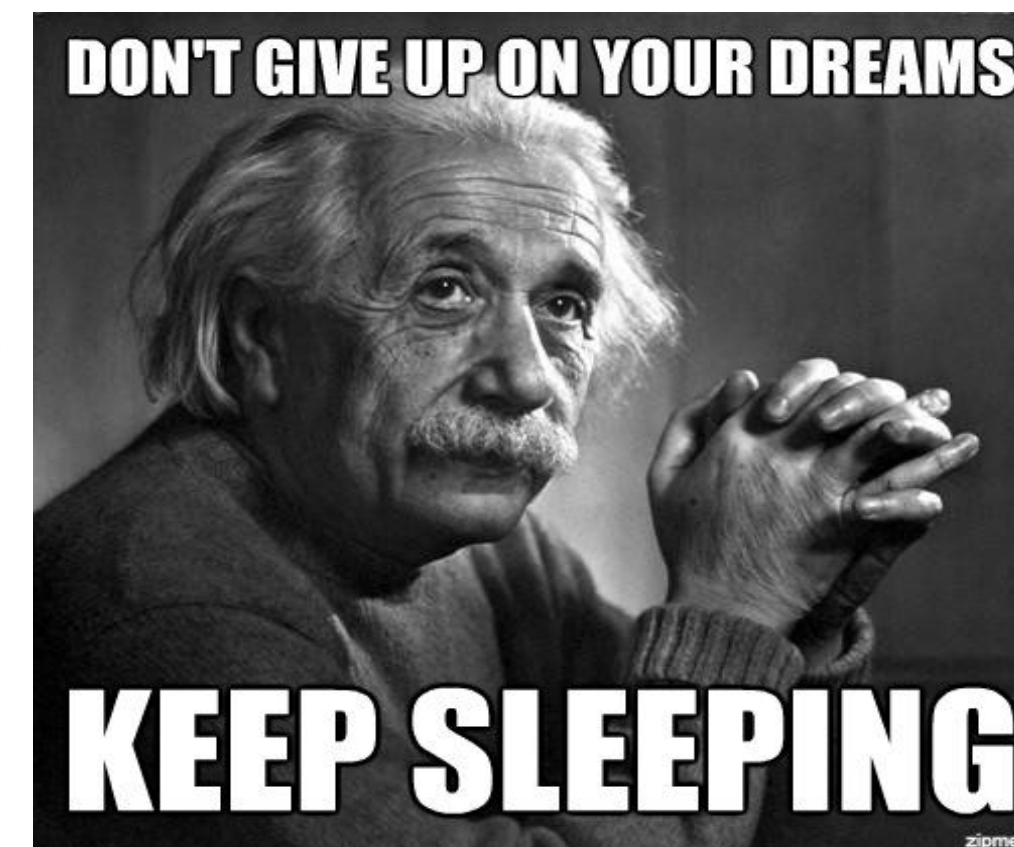
*Soufiane Tahri*

Snowy days. Cold and whiteness. We've already associated it to purity, freezing, hilarious falls, broken ankles, smoking without using the hands (do not try! For professional smokers only), and of course Fu-CENSURED BY THE EDITOR-. In Al Akhawayn University, another phenomenon occur. Suddenly, most students become as devout as Television evangelists, except that evangelists eventually earn money. I will not talk about the obvious subject of the prayers (cancellation of classes). But the interesting fact is that prayers were so extensive in their intensity that the Wi-Fi crashed. On the other hand, you could only be amazed at the aiming abilities of the students who throw snowballs. You can literally see them failing to hit in a surprise attack only a few centimeters away from the victim. Which makes the fact that baseball is not currently a sport in Morocco understandable. Also, AUI students, in this snowy panorama, tend to practice two animal behaviors in an excessive degree: flocking and hibernation. Under the pretense of being obvious (I get paid by word in this journal), they flock towards heat and hide food in their bunker that can outlast two nuclear wars, and a presidential speech. However, it turns out that the real challenge is getting out of the fu-CENSURED BY THE PRINTER- bed. I personally experienced what could be described as a revival from the dead. Especially that my dream had another kind of white in it. Imagine ...

You wouldn't want to wake up from that either, would you?

CENSURED BY THE CENSURE (1)

(1): Too bad. I could go on for pages.



# HOW TO HANDLE STRESS (PLOT TWIST: YOU CAN'T!)

Sara Lamsili

As your life is ending, (as your exams are approaching, sorry) many of you start searching for stress symptoms on Google to shockingly discover that you have to go through an arm amputation because your mustache looks weird (what?).

Palms are sweaty, knees weak, arms are heavy, Mom's spaghetti. The clock is ticking, the emotional breakdowns are coming, your eyes are falling (Yes, I did consider joining the rap industry.) Worry not, once again, Sara is here to save the day (only the day though, your GPA ain't my business, I'm already struggling with mine, m'kay?)

- **STEP ONE:** Pack your bags and go home, lol. Normally, that should be the end of article, you know. But because I still need to show credibility, I'll pretend that stress can be fought with yoga, yogurts, shark's scent and all kind of weird solutions that you run across magazines while eating fajitas with extra cheese. (Shop ba9i 7al?)

- **STEP TWO:** Go on Youtube. Type "anti stress music". Listen to the sound of ocean's waves. Fall asleep. Miss class. Wake up. Open your we bmail. Check out the e-mail that got sent from your professor informing you that you got a WF because of whales. Feel relieved because you have one less class to handle. See me as a life inspiration for the rest of your life.

- **STEP THREE:** Read your professors's resumé. Have a nervous laugh because it's longer than your paper's that due in 20 minutes. Go to your professor's office. Compare their resume with your paper. Make them blush. Drop the class because you got t the failing grade anyways . . .

- **STEP FOUR:** Cry.

- **STEP FIVE:** Dance the Macarena in the Zero Decibel room until they kick you out. Get diagnosed with weird long name whose letters end with " ysis " ( no, not ISIS, you freak. This is why Trump is getting popular.) because medicine. Get excused absences. Sleep.

## TYPES OF STUDENTS

Sara Lamsili

After my article that dealt with the different types of professors, ( I hope none of you got kicked for preaching my articles in class), may I present you the baby version ( I am writing the word " baby " in here, because I don't have anyone to say it to, please understand me).

You can either relate or you at least know someone who belongs to a certain category. Although to be honest, if you don't relate, you either dropped soon enough out of college or you're an alien; in both cases, we, the sleepless, hungry college community applaud you and envy you every single night . . . or day depending on if an all-nighter has been put into action.

The Koala Incarnator

This person is a legend. They have found the answer to life and it characterizes itself as the form of sleep. Too much work? Sleep. Not enough work? Sleep. You have a quiz and you're not ready? Sleep. Not enough sleep? Sleep. Why were you late? Sleep.

The New York Timer ( Tornado version)

They have an opinion about everything; politics, religion, feminism, why is the weather sunny, Donald trump's hair implant. The annoying thing is not the opinion in itself. It is the " Saleel Al Sawarim " spirit that comes out of their energy. Hide yo' kids, hide yo' wife, hide yo husband, hide yourself.

The James Bond

You see them in class three times a semester: syllabus day, midterm, and final. Their final grade : A-. You ? You always go to class. You do the extra credit. You do the extra credits for the extra credits. You mess up one quiz. ONE. Your final grade? C-. Understand, go crazy. (translate to darija).

The Tourist

These types of students, travel all the time; summer abroad, semester abroad, dismissed abroad. To this day, you're still wondering if they're enrolled in AUI or elsewhere. #OnlyGodKnows

The Arab Spring

Alright I'll confess . . . Maybe this university does not treat its students Stanford style. But come on . . . Hold your head up high a little, mate. This type blames everything based on the exterior stuff, from studies to social interactions. Here are few examples that represent the complainers in their natural element:

"I couldn't do my homework because the heaters were off which reminded me of the cold and hunger that happened in Mother Russia."

"I couldn't get the passing grade on my quiz because t he dark coffee that the cafeteria served me reminded me of the apartheid and it prevented me from projecting my focus into the sheet."

"I was absent because the echo of my room was not loud enough for me to hear my alarm ring."

"I can't get into a relationship, because no one wrote about me in the confessions page."

# THUS SPOKE THE LLAMA

Mohamed Bentaibi & his imaginary friend

Reader, I know what you must be saying to yourself right now: "He has a llama as imaginary friend? This guy needs to go to the health center". Of course not. They only have those damn red pills. Anyway, for the sole purpose of anonymity, we will call my imaginary friend Dalai. Dalai has a llama, so it's Dalai's llama. We came home late last night, after a long day trying desperately to find someone who could listen to what we have to say. I guess we don't have much time. All I can do is write.

We are in 2125, the Renowned Era. Gone is the time when human civilization was . . . alive. Everyone is young and beautiful, except that now "life" happens in CityApp, a virtual world created by and under the power of a few. If you lift your head up, you can see the city through the clouds. In fact, in order to create CityApp they literally used cloud computing, that has tremendously evolved during all those years. Everyone down here is left for dead, with all corpses lying in the four corners of what used to be reality. Grossly naked, with a mask connected to an oxygen bottle, they get high to the clouds through a robotic helmet deeply rooted to the scalp of their shaved heads. Human stupidity reached its peak. Dalai, Dalai's llama and I are almost dead of hunger, thirst and cold. Survival has become a luxury. Armed with a pencil, all I could do is write and speak . .

Llama: Man, I think we don't have much time. It's over.

Dalai: Med, I don't know what's more disturbing: my increasing desire of eating that cockroach you have in your head or the freaking llama that just spoke.

Med: What the frunkh? Since when do you speak?

L: Uuhm . . . forever?

M: Oh, great . . . Dalai, I think this is a hallucination.

D: Yeah, I think so. Frankly speaking, I don't care. We're going to die anyways.

L: Screw CityApp. I knew they shouldn't have created it. I knew it. But do you know why it worked?

M: No, why ?

L: Think about it. What do people love? What is the weak point of you, human beings? What is the cornerstone of your dignity?

D: Oh my God, can't believe we are talking with a freaking llama . .

M: I don't know. Money? Fame?

L: Your appearance. Focusing on the exterior has become a common social disease in many societies, and definitely in Morocco. People are dead down here, but alive up there. Look at them, all smiling and happy. They are beautiful, but still looking all the time at themselves in the mirror, still worried of not reaching perfection. They have it all or, at least, they think they do. You, human beings, think you have evolved. You have devolved, actually. All you care about is about the perception that the other has of you. You are just like an empty attractive bottle. Nice make up. What you need is water spread your faces.

M: Not true. There are people who do it for themselves, to feel comfortable in their inner soul.

D: That's what they claim. This has become an obsession.

L: This obsession is practiced by all levels of society. Various levels of society learn from the others. Children learn from their parents to "keep up appearances". It became habit-forming after having seen the others repeatedly behave this way.

M: Look up there . . . These guys in the coffee shop are seemingly talking about "inter-

esting" things, yet they don't know what they are talking about. All they are doing is looking like they know.

L: What you're doing now is also your weak point. All you do is criticize. The camel never sees his own hump, but only that of his brother and sister. You have this sick habit of always pointing out at what others do worse instead of what they do best. You project your own values, your own thoughts, your own misconceptions of what the world should look like. Example of this? Let's take the example of Morocco. When someone dances Chaabi, a traditional music and dance that has been in Morocco for generations and through which families and friends have sometimes enjoyed a pure moment of happiness and joy, there are sick people pointing at him or her, saying that he or she is a "bouzebal".

D: What's that?

L: "Bouzebal" was the name given to he who does not conform to the rules of Good Appearance. The wild bouzebal was not properly educated; he was a social failure because of deeper social problems (poverty, drugs, lack of education, etc.). It was considered as an insult. Now and then, every time someone saw someone else doing something that he or she didn't like, he or she would call her out as bouzebal. Can you believe this? Just because they didn't share the same taste, the same views, the same popular culture.

M: Yes, I heard that story. The criticism problem again, I suppose.

L: Exactly. One aspect that continues this obsession is the reward given to those who care for just appearances. The society has become oriented/structured in such a way that those who give appearances get "rewarded" by people talking about them respectfully, giving them attention, etc. This has to change, among other things, if our society is going to stop this habit.

D: It's too late.

L: It is distressing that this obsession is to such a degree that it harms the actual things of value. You don't think enough about the things of value. The obsession with appearances leading you to do things or adopt decisions that actively harm the inner things of value that ought to be nurtured.

M: But I can't see specific examples.

L: Here are some of them: giving impression of having knowledge rather than actually having knowledge and working for it; people doing initiatives or efforts because it will bring them recognition, etc. Closer to our situation as an academic community, we see many forms of it. Students joining Honors program solely for the reason that it gives value to their profile/CV; students doing work in some community service clubs for the same goals; forming too many initiatives and announcing them prominently, even though not much effort/resource has been committed to it; etc.



# AFRICA, THE STORY OF A RAPED CONTINENT

*Mohamed El Halloufi*

We live in a world where fairness, or justice as politicians like to call it, is just a pipe dream we were convinced of when we were young and naive, but as we breed logic and sense, we soon start to scratch up the lies and separate the reality from the mirage. Why is it that 2% of the world population owns half of the world's wealth? Why is it that 783 million people do not have access to clean water whereas few others varnish their bathroom sink with gold and silver? It does not take much thinking to notice the unjust distribution of wealth but for some unknown reasons, we choose to bite our tongues. We pity the starving African kids and cheer for the "humanitarian" aids coming from the West, but again I wonder why we simply disregard the unconceivable yet the obvious truth. Why is Africa the poorest continent on earth while being the richest in natural resources?

As much as you were taught to deny it, the West is consistently destabilizing Africa by creating political tensions and dismantling core progress inside the continent. The funny thing though is that they are stylishly pretending to be the kindhearted party through their charity campaigns, showcasing the typical African picture. The starving and skeletal African kid that spark your heart with inevitable pain the moment you gaze his innocent, weeping eyes. And then suddenly, yielded by the clouds, bags of mercy emerge. As they fall down along with gravity and American propaganda, sounds of joy and bliss burst out. Oh! If only this African kid knew that those bags of mercy are exchanged for his bags of gold, he would not be posing for the picture in the first place. "Charity Porn", indeed as one Ted Talker described it.

The story of Africa began in the 15th century. Well, to be fair it started thousands of centuries ago, but it was at this era that things were getting interesting. I like to think of it as the disruptive element of our story. As the European ships sailed against the waves of the Atlantic Ocean, they progressively established trading posts along the shores and started indulging into the African community through commerce. The more they left the shores, advancing further onto the wildness of Africa, glimpsing at the richness and the enticing fiat land, the more they wanted.

By the late 1870s, businessmen started streaming into the continent. The European market was no longer enough, and it was time to expand or rather invade. The industrial revolution opened new dimensions of growth, greasing the wheels for every ambitious man. Europe was blinded by the flashing progress and urged by those mercenary businessmen to establish colonies in order to have absolute control over the continent. And like a yummy chocolate cake, Africa was split between the most powerful European countries. They drove their knife of greed into it, drawing borders and splashing blood. By 1914, they seized the entire continent except Ethiopia and Liberia. "Imperialism" they called it, a fancy name for a cheap movement.

I wish I could tell you the end of the story but sadly there is none. The story of Africa did not end after the independence of its countries. The exploitation and thievery prevailed although we sing the words of freedom and pride once every year

in memory for those brave patriots who have sacrificed their lives.

At this very moment, 14 African countries are still forced to put around 85% of their foreign reserves in the French Central Bank because of colonial debts that are haunting them after long years of independence. African leaders who revolt against the wills of France end up victims of coup. In the last 50 years, 67 coups occurred in 26 African countries among which sixteen were colonized by France. On the other hand, African leaders who choose to obey are cherished and granted the right to exercise dictatorship over a land they do not own.

There is nothing more sickening than looking at our brightest brains while they are draining away from Africa, contributing to the prosperity of the developed countries and disregarding their own. I wrote this story, our story, with great sorrow yet with great hope. I believe that we have the power to reverse their power and regain control of our own land. Not with violence and dirty plots but with strong will and resilience.



## ANNOUNCEMENT

Al Akhawayn Chronicle is **recruiting!!**

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Are you motivated and have a passion for writing?

Please get in touch with:

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