

ple have really drowned, we would have to ask in every village in Africa who has disappeared without ever sending a sign of life again. I am sure the number of unreported cases is terribly high. There are countries that despise migrants and do not deal with the real reasons that lead them to risk their lives. It is always about poverty, violence and disregard for human rights, as well as what was triggered by the interests of great powers and multinationals. These people deserve our protection," he says clearly.

Tragic eyewitness accounts

The compiled pictorial material of the film shows how long the migration crisis has actually been smouldering, but it's the reports of survivors that are really harrowing. Malian-born artist Issa Sibide tells his story in the documentary and was available for questions following the official screening. In



↑ The photo of Issa Sibide went around the world

2004 he made it to the coast of Fuerteventura, but during the crossing the boat in which he was travelling capsized and eleven people drowned. Sibide only survived by desperately clinging to a lifebelt, a moment that photographer Juan Medina captured perfectly: a picture that reflects the young man's panic and despair and which was awarded the World Press Photo Prize by the Reuters agency in 2005. The image shot around the world at the

eye, straight into an obviously desperate soul.

The documentary tells stories of pain and death, and also of overcoming personal obstacles. Like that of Alí, who left Ghana with his brother Abou. At that time he was eleven years old and his big brother took care of him after their father's death. They first travelled to Morocco, where they worked long hours to earn money for the crossing to Spain. When the time finally



↑ Mayor Carmen Hernández congratulated Nicolás Castellano on his outstanding research and commitment to human rights

MODERN URBAN DESIGN

A reformed Plaza for El Fraile

Arona's mayor José Julián Mena is currently working on several projects aimed at modernising the borough and improving the quality of life.

These include the latest redesign of the Plaza de la Iglesia de Santa Isabel de Portugal in the El Fraile district. "This district in particular lacks public spaces. This one is very outdated, partly dilapidated and not accessible to everyone as it is at the moment. We want the inhabitants to get more leisure value through this change" explained the mayor. He is also breaking new ground in the redevelopment of this public space. It's not just a question of replacing broken walls and plants and building a ramp for wheelchair users, but a completely new type of covering which is a pioneer in the Canaries will be used to make the plaza more or less breathable. The innovative material is catalytic and it actively absorbs toxic and contaminating substances from the environment and transforms them so that they are no longer harmful. Only solar energy is required for this process. For the residents of the district, this means an improvement in their leisure time and quality of life. The project should be completed in around four months. ■



↑ The plaza today and how it should look in the future



↑ Gran Canaria's island president Antonio Morales pleads for a refugee policy with a focus on human dignity

time, touching people because it is hard to turn away from. Instead, the picture made them look this man directly in the

came, they were separated and sat in different boats. "It was four o'clock in the morning and dark when we left. When

it was light I could not see my brother. There were maybe 32 people sitting in my boat. Both boats had an accident. Mine

was spotted off the Spanish coast by the Red Cross who took us in, but before it arrived many got up and wanted to be the first to be rescued. Then the boat capsized and many, I guess 18 of us, drowned. On land I looked for my brother but I don't know whether he is alive or dead," he says. He never heard from his brother again and it's very likely that he stayed in the ocean.

Alí is currently working with chef Javier Muñoz for the Fundación Raíces non-profit organisation. "My boss took me in like a son. He is very good to me. That makes me happy," he says.

If you are interested in watching the film, you can catch it on Youtube under the link www.youtube.com/watch?v=JAV3U5Pa4cl. ■

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