



MOONGIRLS

CHAPTER 10

Before the Rains Came



CREDITS

CREATOR AKOSUA HANSON

CREATIVE DIRECTOR FRANCIS Y. BROWN

WRITER NADIA AHIDJO

LINES MOYO

COLOUR MOYO

LETTERING CHARLES SAM

EDITED BY AKOSUA HANSON



THIS IS A DRAMA QUEENS PRODUCTION

GLOSSARY

TÉNÉRÉ is a Tamashek/Berber word meaning empty land or desert. The plural of the word is Tinariwen.

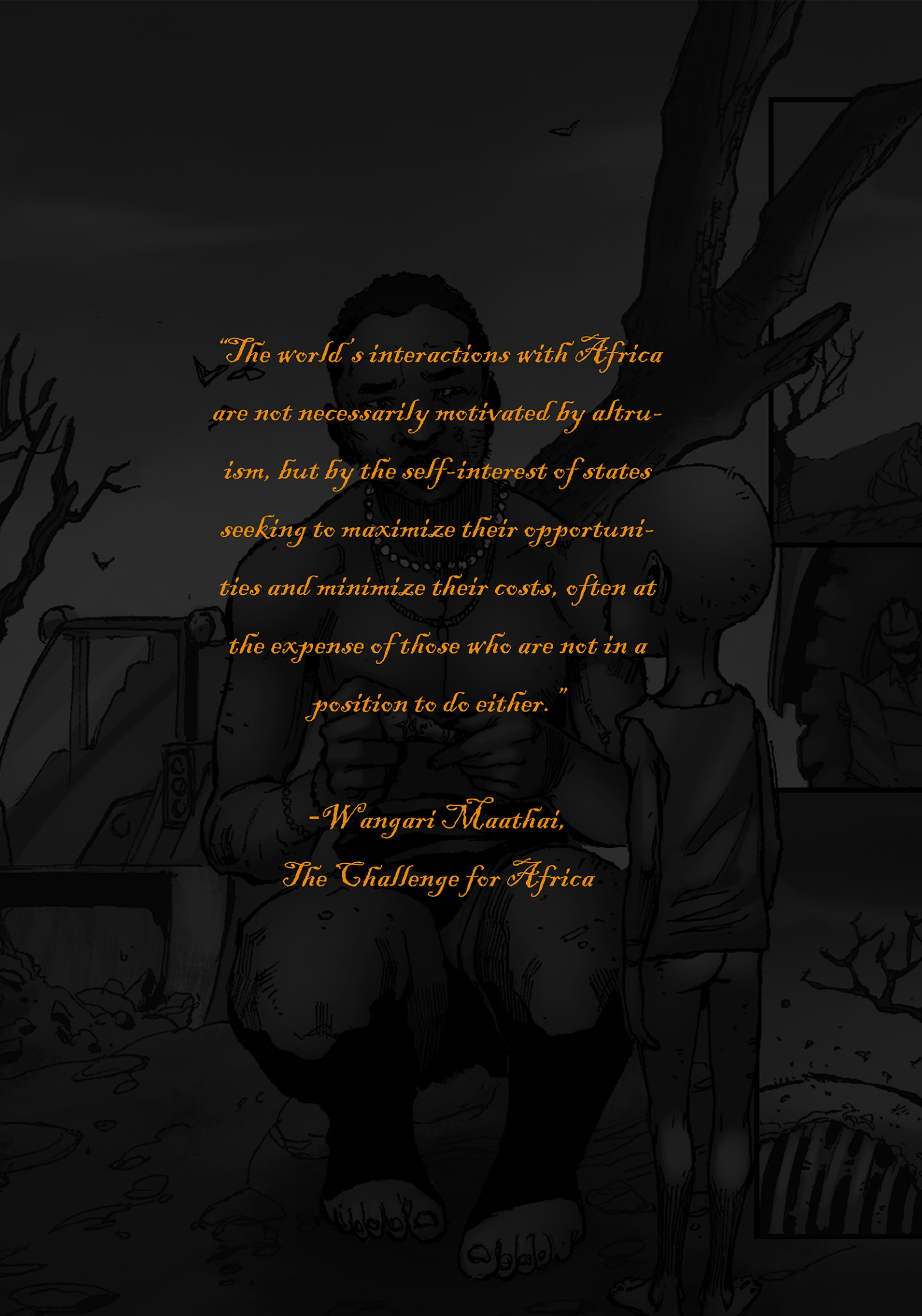
KAHINA is a Tamashek/Berber name meaning fortune-teller.

COPS Community Organizer Prototypes

The Short Story version of "Before the Rains Came" long listed by Short Story Day Africa for the "Disruption" edition.

This chapter was adapted from Nadia Ahidjo's "Before the Rains Came", a Short Story long listed by Short Story Day Africa.

The Story was inspired by Tinariwen, a song by Amassakoul 'N' Tenere



*"The world's interactions with Africa
are not necessarily motivated by altru-
ism, but by the self-interest of states
seeking to maximize their opportuni-
ties and minimize their costs, often at
the expense of those who are not in a
position to do either."*

-Wangari Maathai,

The Challenge for Africa

ON THIS RAINY NIGHT, THE WHITE SAVIORS MEET THE EMPOWERED NATIVES.



KAHINA, KAHINA, WHAT IS HE DRINKING? DOES IT TASTE NICER THAN THE BROWN WATER WE FILTER AND DRINK?

KAHINA, KAHINA WHAT IS THE PROTOTYPE EATING? DOES IT TASTE LIKE THE FROG LEGS WE EAT EVERY DAY?



HUSH TÉNÉRÉ, THAT'S FOOD FROM BEFORE THE RAINS CAME.

HUSH TÉNÉRÉ, THAT'S WATER FROM BEFORE THE RAINS CAME.

MY FRIENDS LET'S CELEBRATE. WE WILL TITLE IT: "RESILIENCE TO CLIMATE CHANGE - DIETARY ADAPTATIONS IN THE SAHEL". THESE PEOPLE ARE SO RESILIENT TO CLIMATE CHANGE IT'S AMAZING!

WHAT WE NEED ARE HUMAN INTEREST STORIES! WE CAN COLLECT THEM RIGHT HERE IN THIS BAR, WATCH AND LEARN.





KAHINA, KAHINA, I ALSO WANT TO TELL THEM A STORY AND TASTE THEIR FOOD AND CLEAR WATER!



HEY, YOU! OLD MAN, YES YOU! PLEASE JOIN US, WE HAVE WATER AND CHICKEN, WE WANT TO HEAR YOUR STORY. HOW DID YOU SURVIVE THE RAINS?



COME SIT, COME SIT, SHARE OUR FOOD, IN FACT WHEN WAS THE LAST TIME YOU SAW FOOD AND FRESH WATER? TELL US EVERYTHING ABOUT THIS AMAZING RESILIENCE YOU HAVE SHOWN.

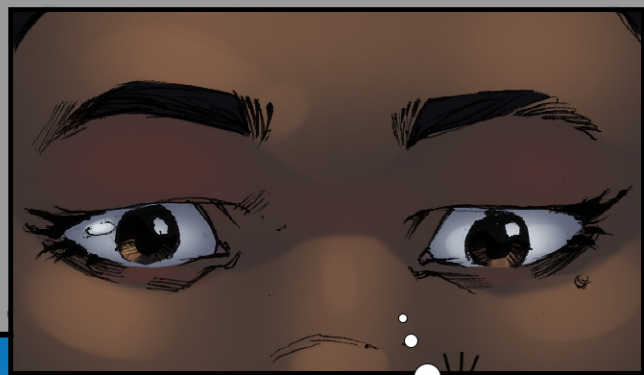
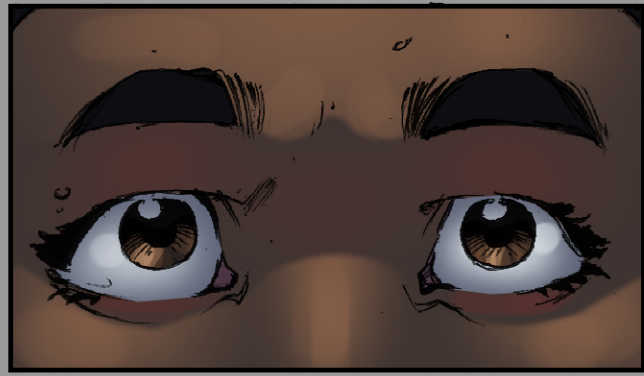






I LOST MY VOICE A LONG TIME AGO, VOCAL CORDS ALL DAMAGED BY THE VIOLENT CHANGES IN THE WEATHER OUTSIDE

OUR MOTHER SAYS MY SPIRIT DIED WHEN I RETURNED EMPOWERED, AND THAT'S THE REAL REASON WHY I CAN'T SPEAK ANYMORE.



OUR MOTHER SAYS MY SPIRIT DIED WHEN I RETURNED EMPOWERED, AND THAT'S THE REAL REASON WHY I CAN'T SPEAK ANYMORE.

IF THEY COULD ALL HEAR ME, I WOULD YELL TOO, TELL THEM ABOUT THE TIME BEFORE THE RAINS CAME, TELL THEM ABOUT ALL THE PROTO-TYPES OF SAVIOURS THAT HAVE BEEN THROUGH HERE, THAT HAVE COME AND GONE IN THEIR QUEST TO EMPOWER US.



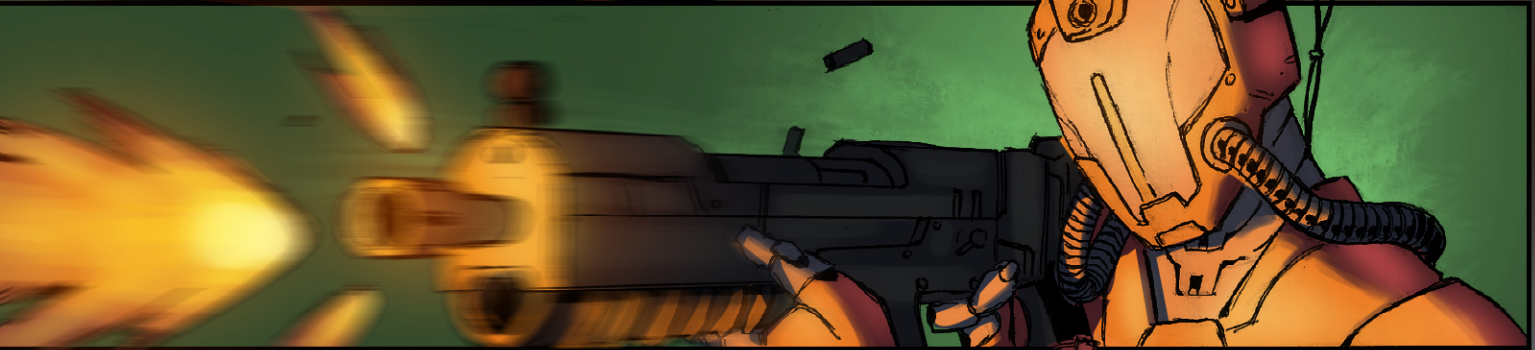
A LONG, LONG TIME AGO, THERE WAS A SEASON FOR EVERYTHING. A SEASON FOR DRYNESS AND A SEASON FOR ABUNDANCE, WITH JUST THE RIGHT AMOUNT OF RAIN. AND THEN WE STARTED HEARING OF OVER-ABUNDANCE ALL AROUND US, AND THAT IS WHEN THE TROUBLE STARTED.

RESEARCHER PROTO-TYPES DESCENDING ON VILLAGES AND CITIES LIKE BEES, DROPPED BY DRONES, AND ASKING QUESTIONS TO EVERYONE THEY MEET.



HUMANITARIAN PROTOTYPES DIGGING HOLES AND COLLECTING BROWN RAIN WATER, HANDING THEM OUT IN WOODEN CUPS AND BOWLS TO POPULATIONS CROWDING THEM.

ARMY PROTOTYPES WITH GUNS THROWING MONEY TO SOME, SHOOTING OTHERS, AND COLLECTING CLOTH BAGS OF GRAIN ETC. ON HUGE TRUCKS.

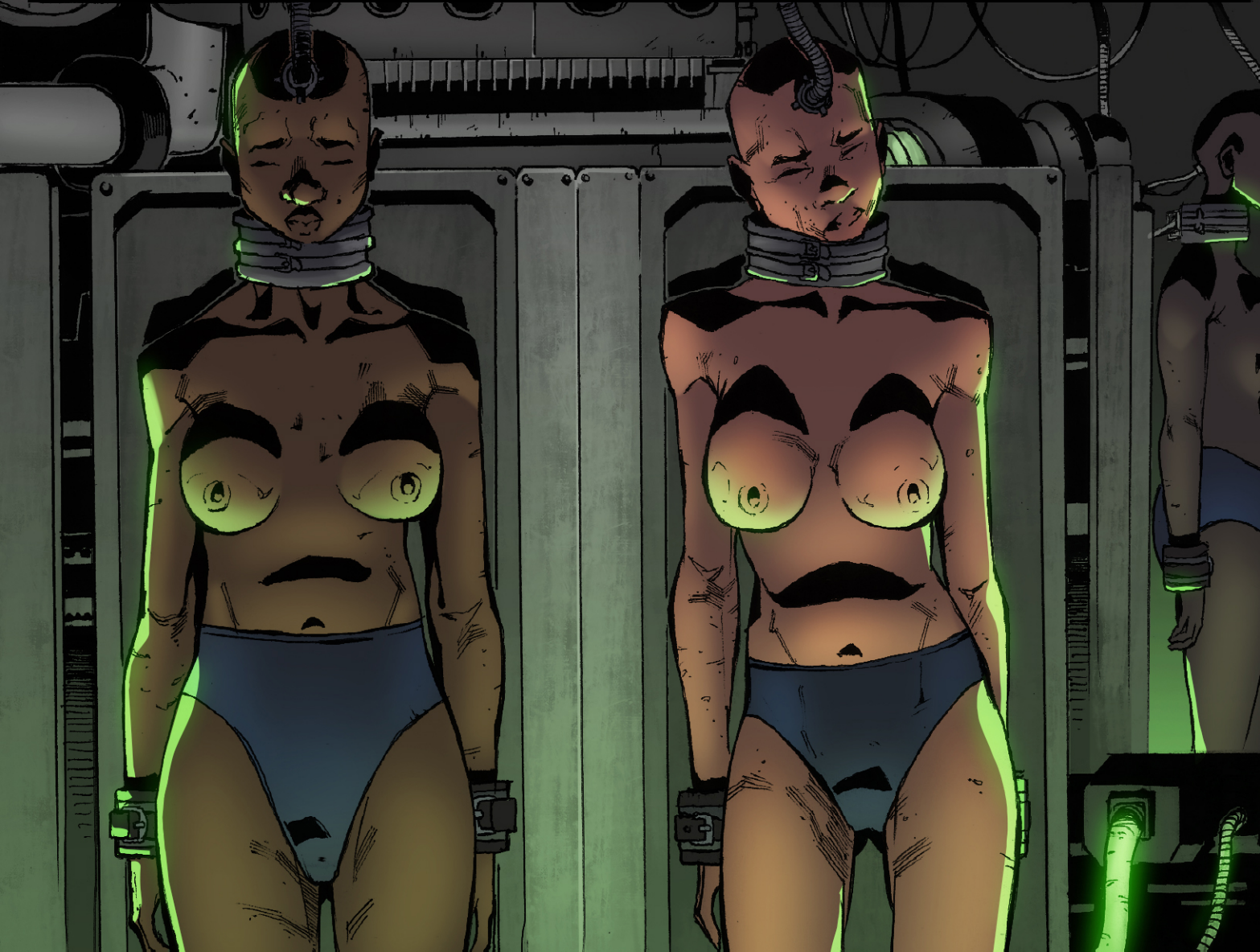
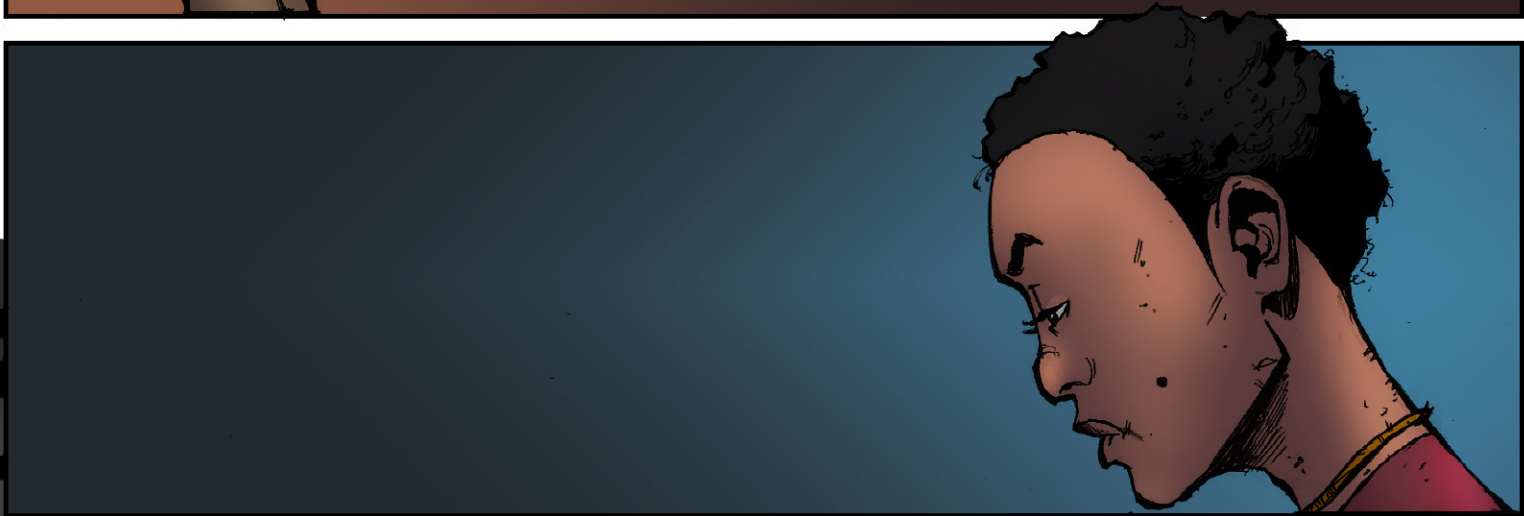


EMPTINESS, PEOPLE STARVING AND DYING.





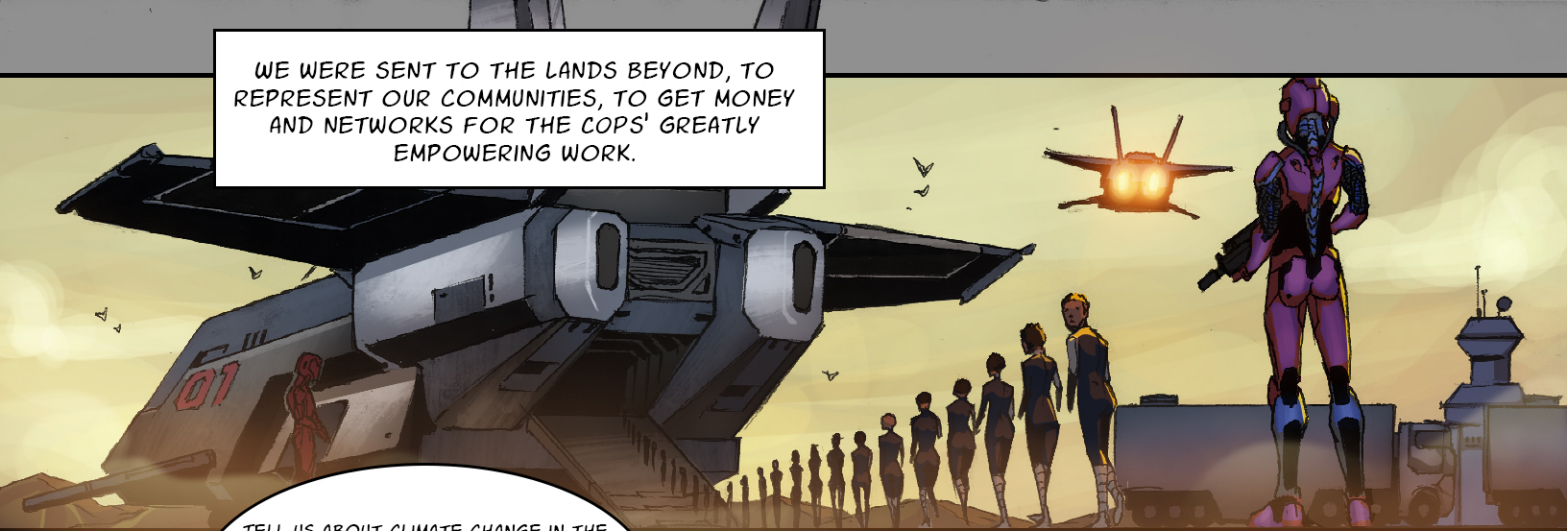
ON AND ON WE CHANTED. CHANTED TILL THESE WORDS BECAME SONGS IN OUR MINDS, RUNNING THROUGH THE VERY THREAD OF OUR SOULS, TILL ALL WE KNEW WAS CARBON FOOTPRINTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE. AND THEN WE BEGAN TO FORGET.



THE CITADEL AND EMPOWERMENT



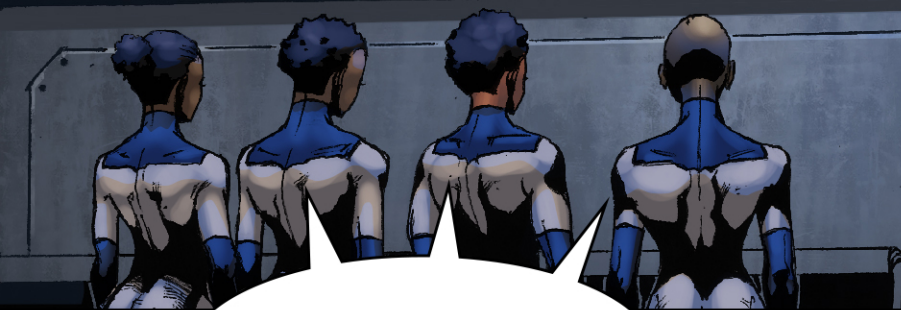
WE WERE SENT TO THE LANDS BEYOND, TO REPRESENT OUR COMMUNITIES, TO GET MONEY AND NETWORKS FOR THE COPS' GREATLY EMPOWERING WORK.



TELL US ABOUT CLIMATE CHANGE IN THE SAHEL! WHAT IS THE FORECAST FOR THE COMING YEARS? WHAT ARE YOUR PLANS TO SURVIVE? WE KNOW THIS GREAT RESEARCHER PROTOTYPE WHO HAS A WONDERFUL THEORY ON FILTERING SEWAGE WATER THAT CAN HELP!



DO YOU KNOW THE INFLUENCER PROTOTYPE WHO TWEETS AS CLIMATE TWISTER? SHE HAS MILLIONS OF FOLLOWERS AND CAN EMPOWER YOU FURTHER! WHAT HAVE THE EXPERT PROTOTYPES ON YOUR HOME SAID? YOU KNOW THEY SPENT YEARS STUDYING WHERE YOU CAME FROM, THEY HAVE BEEN EMPOWERING YOUR PEOPLE FOR SO LONG!"



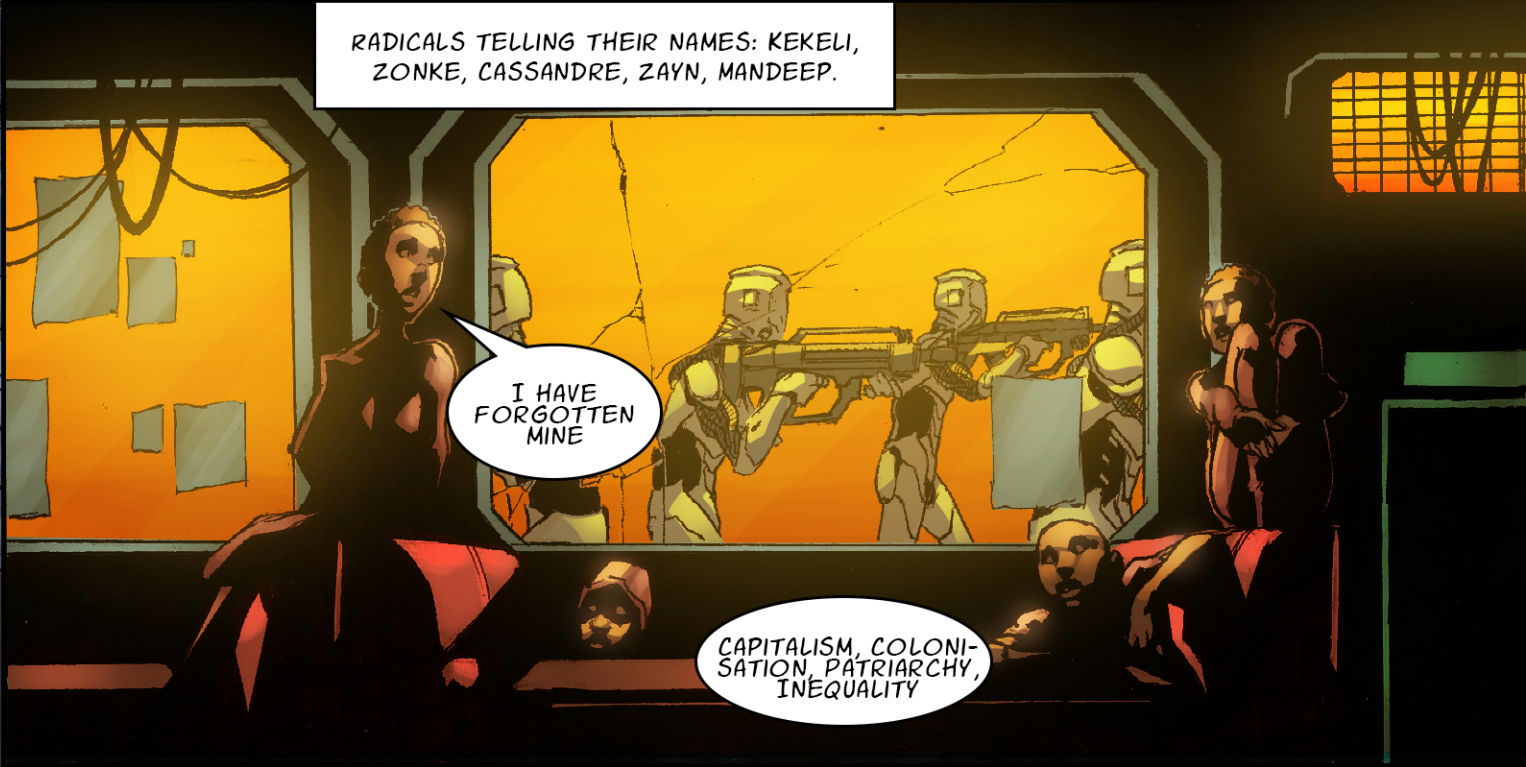
BUILDING CAPACITY AND DEVELOPING SKILLS. MONITORING AND EVALUATION, INDICATORS, EXPECTED RESULTS, AND MEASURABLE IMPACTS. HASHTAGS, FOLLOWERS AND TRENDING.





THESE CHANTS BEGAN TO CUT SO DEEP AT NIGHT WE WOULD BLEED INSIDE. WE MET OTHERS WHO LOOKED LIKE US BUT COULD STILL REMEMBER THEIR NAMES, IN DARK COFFEE SHOPS, HIDDEN AWAY FROM THE COPS WHO CAME WITH US TO THE LANDS BEYOND.

RADICALS TELLING THEIR NAMES: KEKELI, ZONKE, CASSANDRE, ZAYN, MANDEEP.

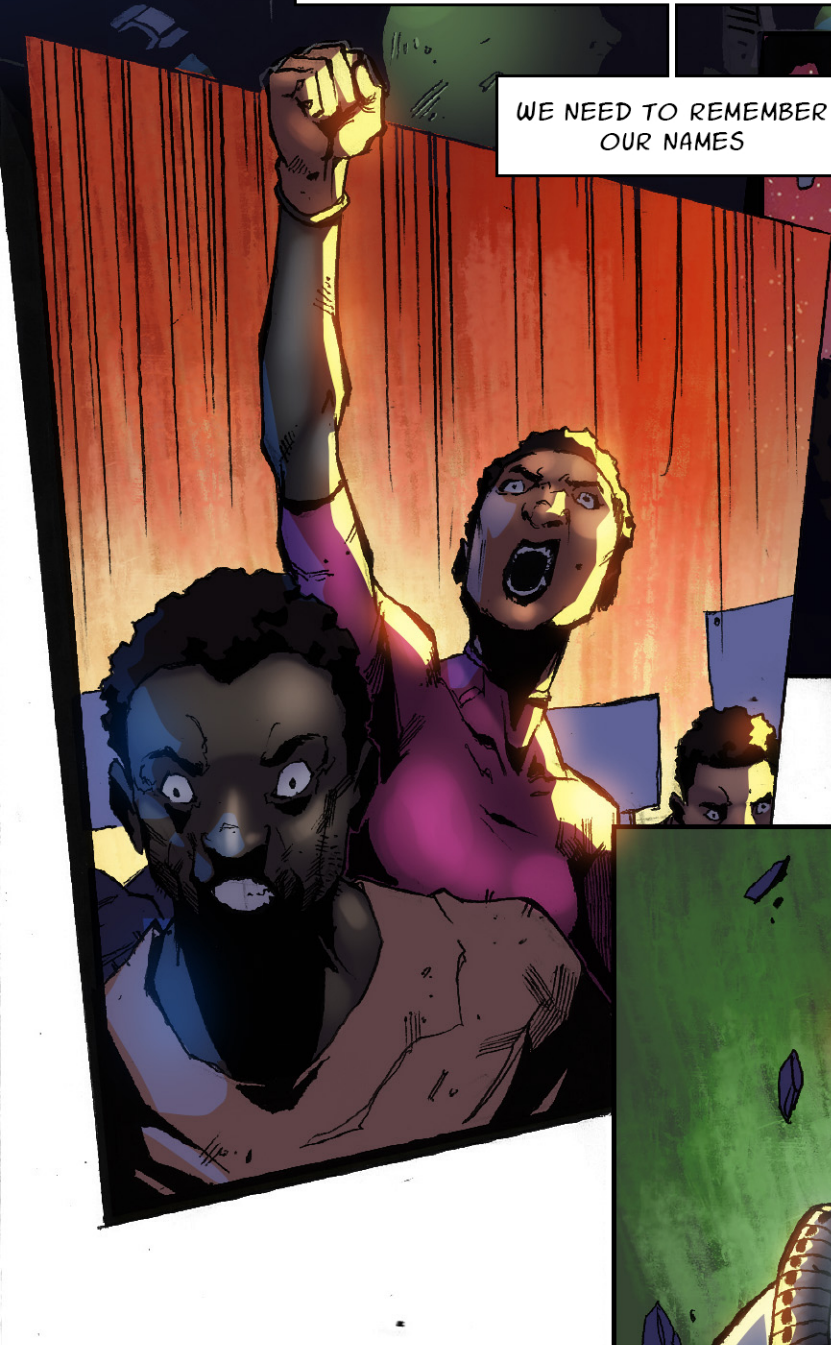


I HAVE FORGOTTEN MINE

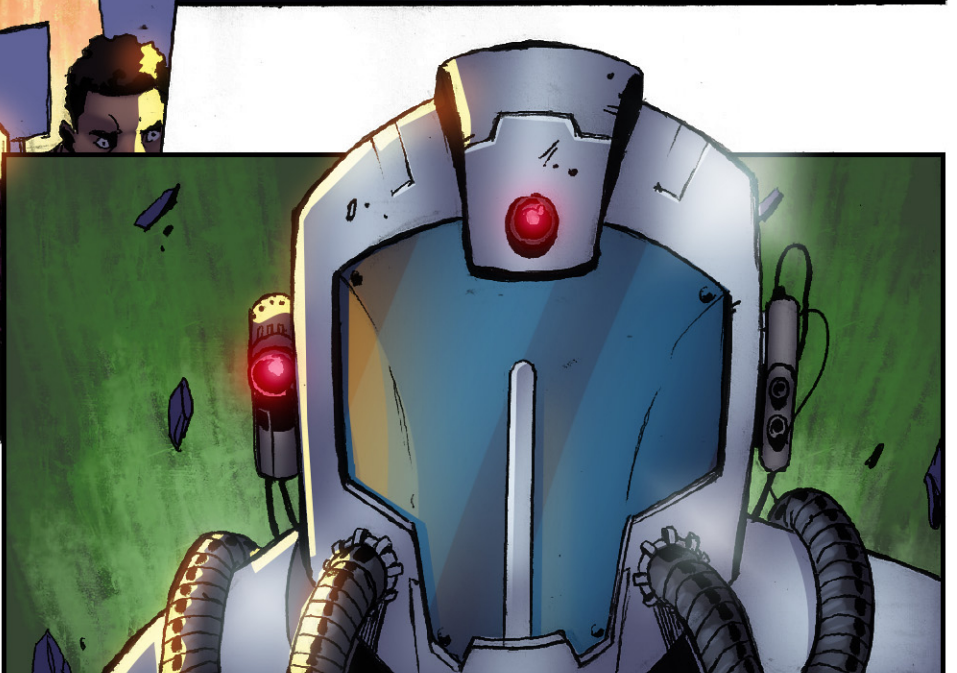
CAPITALISM, COLONISATION, PATRIARCHY, INEQUALITY

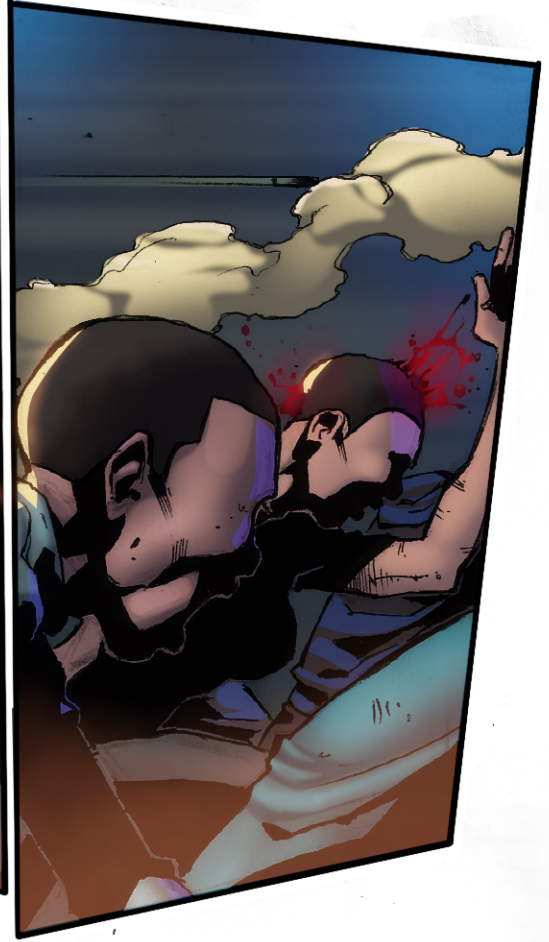


I'M NO LONGER SURE HOW LONG THIS TOOK TÉNÉRÉ, WEEKS? MONTHS? YEARS? CAN ANYBODY REMEMBER ANYMORE? ALL I KNOW IS ONE DAY, THE RAINS CAME TO THE LANDS BEYOND TOO.



WE NEED TO REMEMBER OUR NAMES







THE EMPOWERED ONES WHO COULD NOT REMEMBER OUR NAMES RETURNED THE CITADEL AND TO THEIR COMMUNITIES AS EMPOWERMENT PROTOTYPES.

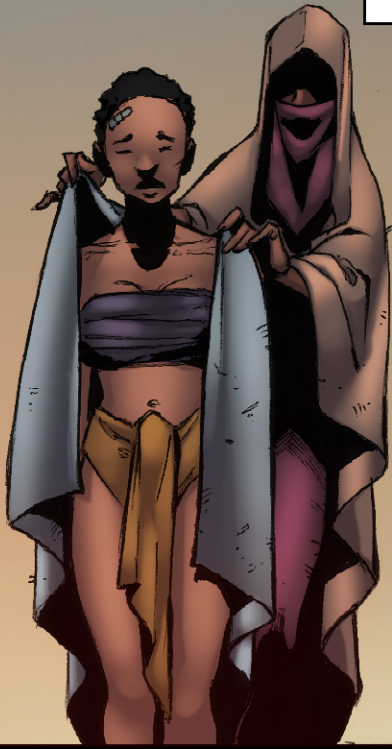


I NEED TO KNOW MY NAME

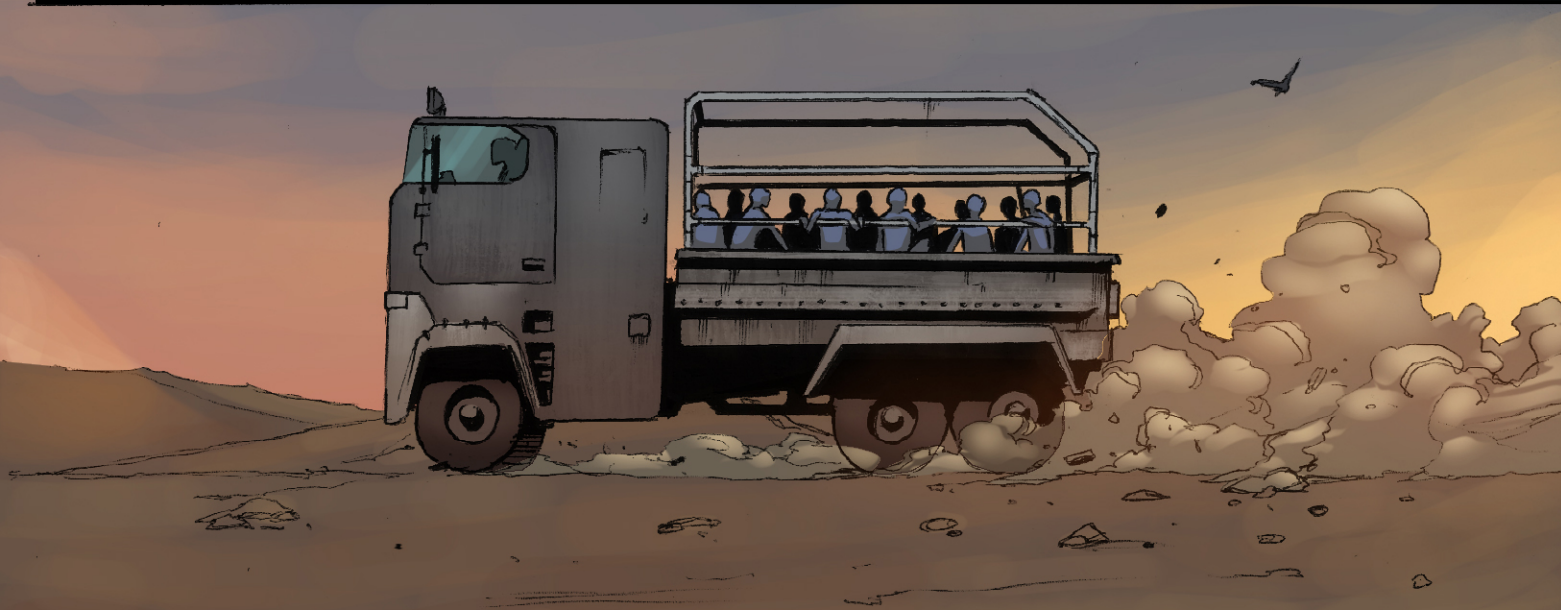
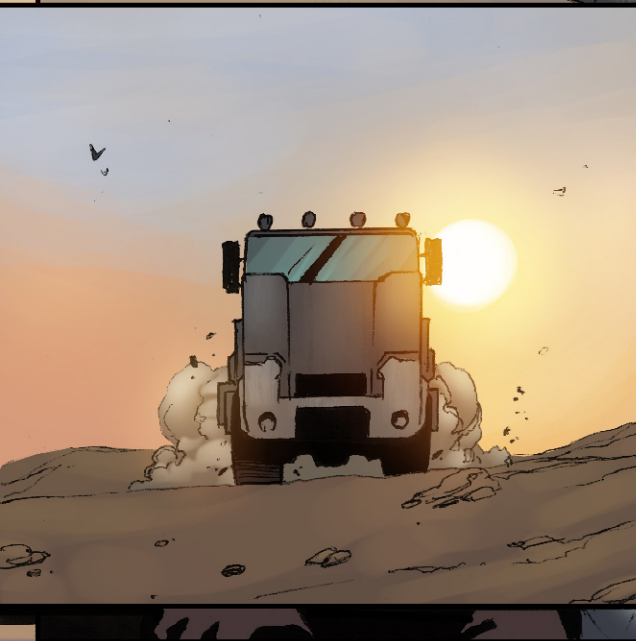
MAYBE SOMEDAY
MAYBE SOMEDAY
KAHINA. SOMEDAY BUT
NOT TODAY.




I PUT THOSE BOOKS TO GOOD USE.




ALTERNATIVE RECIPES FOR RESILIENT SAHELANS. TWELVE TOMES, RECIPES WITH FROGS, CRICKETS + MOSQUITOES.





IS THIS HOW IT ALL ENDS?



YOU KNOW WHAT I TRULY WISH FOR TÈNÈRÉ? I WISH I COULD REMEMBER MY NAME. IF I LISTEN JUST SO, I THINK I CAN HEAR IT IN MY SOUL, IT WHISPERS TO ME TINARIWEN *



MOON GIRLS

CHAPTER 10
PART II

20.10.20



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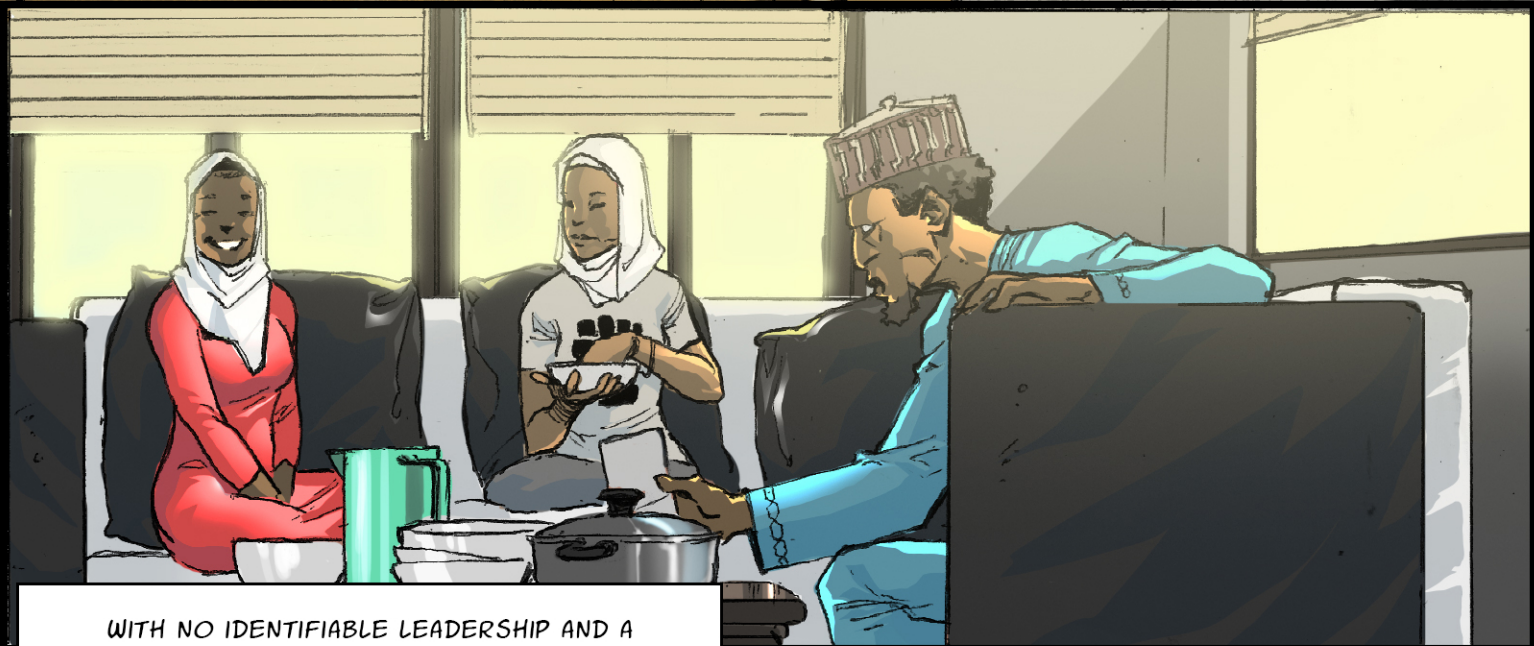
LETTERING CHARLES SAM



THIS IS A DRAMA QUEENS PRODUCTION



TODAY MARKS CLOSE TO 2 WEEKS OF THE #ENDSARS PROTESTS THAT HAVE SWEEPED NIGERIA.



WITH NO IDENTIFIABLE LEADERSHIP AND A DECENTRALIZED STRUCTURE, NIGERIAN YOUTH OF THE SORO SOKE (SPEAK UP) GENERATION HAD STARTED ONE OF THE BIGGEST AFRICAN REVOLUTIONS OF THE 21ST CENTURY.





THROUGH PEACEFUL, CONSCIENTIOUS AND WELL-ORGANIZED PROTESTS, #ENDSARS BEGAN WITH DEMANDING AN END TO THE RAMPANT POLICE BRUTALITY BY SARS OFFICERS WHO HAD BLOODIED THEIR OATHS OF DUTY WITH STATE-LEGITIMIZED GANGSTERISM.



BUT THE FIGHT GREW BIGGER – TO A WAR AGAINST A KIND OF MODERN DICTATORSHIP, THAT PRESENTS AS DEMOCRATIC, THAT EVEN TWEETS THE PRESIDENT'S SPEECHES AND USES THE LANGUAGE FOR INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC INCLUSION, BUT IN REALITY WAS A DICTATORSHIP, WITH AN UGLY IMPUNITY AT DISPENSING THAT POWER.

THERE WERE MANY ATTEMPTS BY THE GOVERNMENT TO QUELL THESE PROTESTS.

Hired thugs were sent to disrupt the protests. Thievery and looting, destroying property, causing in-fighting and in some cases murder - were some of the antics these hired thugs employed.

THIS GAVE THE GOVERNMENT THE EXCUSE THEY NEEDED TO VIOLENTLY QUELL THE PROTESTS

 Amnesty International Nigeria
@AmnestyNigeria

—Thugs and sponsored hoodlums brandishing cutlass and knives have been attacking peaceful protesters across Nigeria.
—Death and severe injuries were recorded.
—Protest is not a crime and Nigerian authorities must protect protesters and all Nigerians. #EndSARS 🇳🇮 #EndSARS 🇳🇮

11:21 AM · Oct 20, 2020 · Twitter for iPhone

3.5K Retweets 87 Quote Tweets 2K Likes

 Bop Daddy
@falzthebahdguy

In a desperate bid to silence us & stop the protests, they have decided to resort to using thugs. Lol.

That one no go work. Try again.
#EndSARS 🇳🇮

23:36 · 19 Oct 20 · Twitter for iPhone

38.2K Retweets 829 Quote Tweets 39K Likes

 Mr Macaroni
@mr_macaronii


MC Oluomo and Baba Alado sent thugs to Alausa. They came in Lagos State owned BRT buses and the Nigerian Police refused to stop them!!

We managed to copy one of the bus' serial number; s/n 240171.

Please RT.

#AlausaProtest #EndSARS
#EndSWAT

 UK in Nigeria
@UKinNigeria

We remain concerned by acts of looting & violence in  & urge security services use restraint as order is restored. Working with all stakeholders, judicial panels of inquiry must investigate all incidents, including #Lekki, & ensure accountability for crimes.
#EndPoliceBrutality

2:27 PM · Oct 26, 2020 · Twitter for Android

563 Retweets 44 Quote Tweets 647 Likes

BUT ON 20TH OCTOBER 2020,
EVENTS TOOK A VERY DARK TURN

1PM GMT

THE GOVERNOR OF LAGOS STATE,
BABAJIDE SANWO-OLU ANNOUNCED A
CURFEW TO BEGIN AT 4PM, THOUGH
ANNOUNCED AT 1PM. THE CURFEW WAS
LATER MOVED TO 9PM.



AROUND 3PM GMT



THE CCTV CAMERAS AT THE LEKKI
TOLL GATE ARE BEING REMOVED!

THESE MEN SAID THEY WERE OR-
DERED TO REMOVE THE CCTV
CAMERAS. WHY ARE THE CCTV
CAMERAS AT LEKKI TOLL GATE
BEING REMOVED?

12 34 56

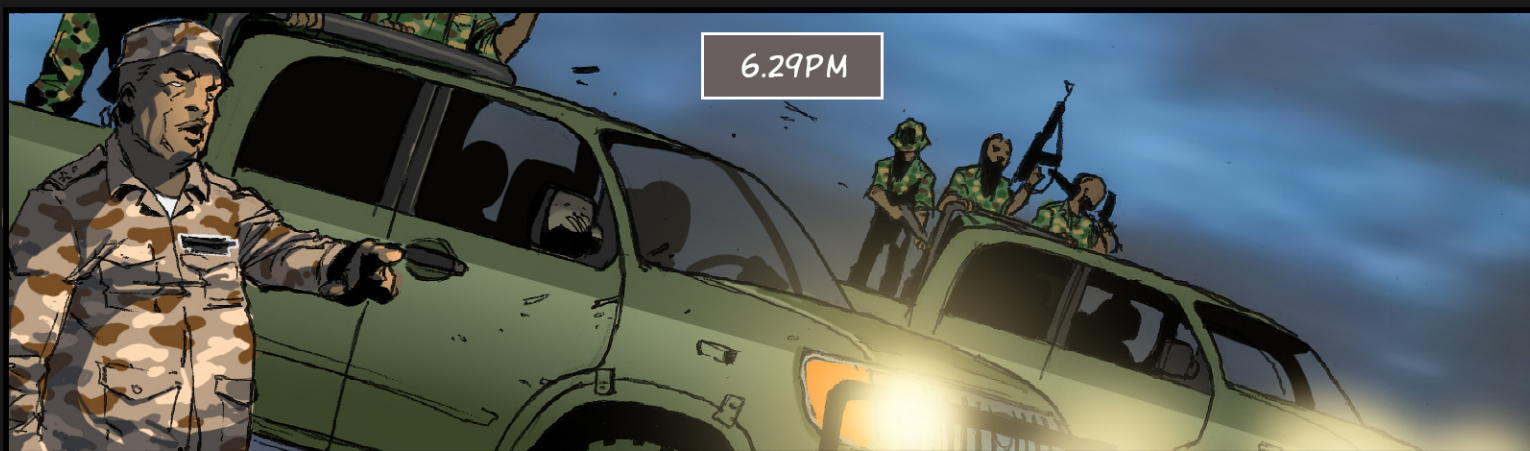
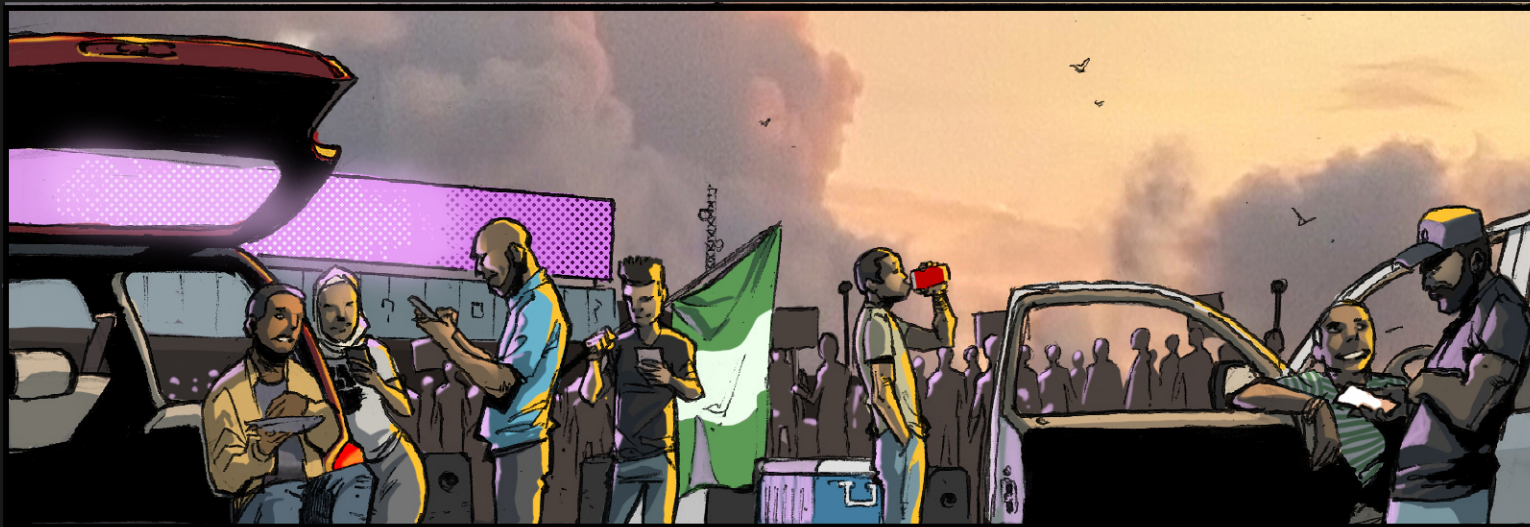
THERE WAS THIS SENSE OF FORE-
BODING WE ALL HAD. BUT WE SHOOK
OUR HEADS, "NO. NOT
POSSIBLE. NOT IN THIS DAY AND AGE."

4PM

NA PEACEFUL
PROTEST ABI ?
WAVE THE FLAG!

YAH!

TOGETHER



6.29PM



LIGHTS GO OFF AT THE LEKKI TOLLGATE. ALL ADVERTISING BILLBOARDS AT LEKKI TOLLGATE ARE TURNED OFF.

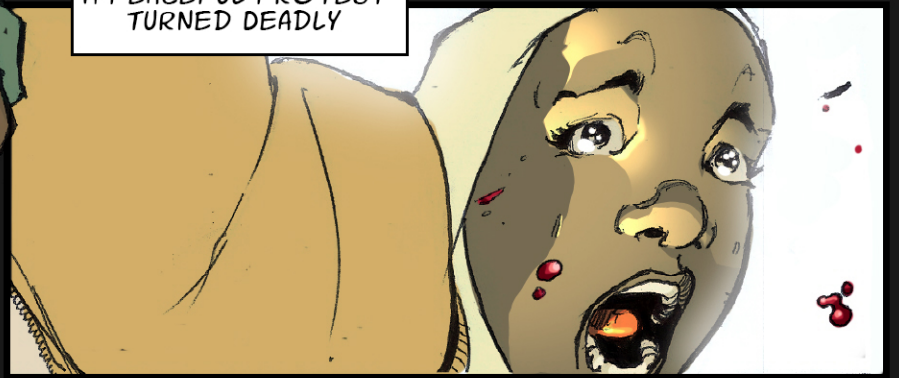
6.45PM

SONG OF THE NATION

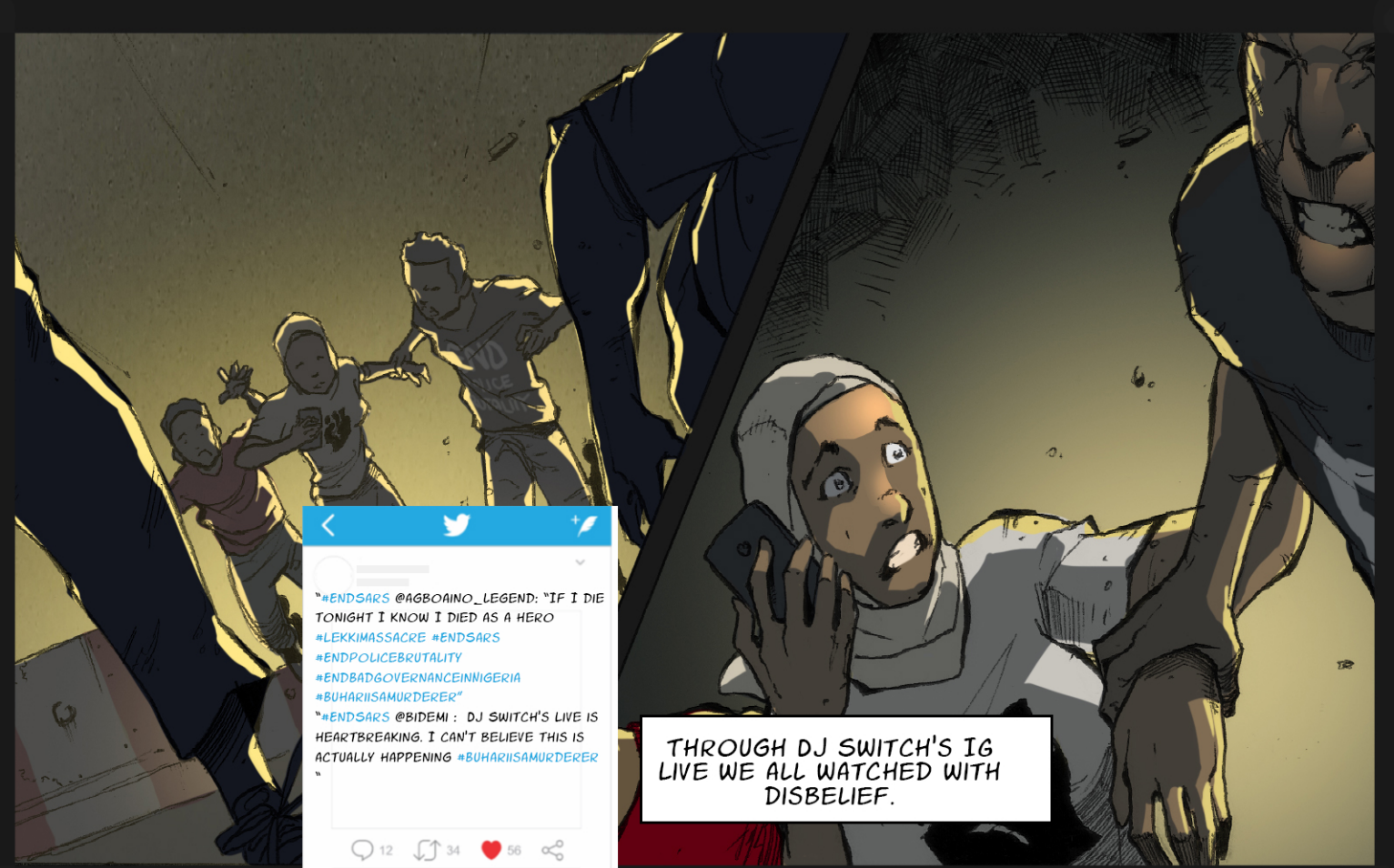
ARISE, O COMPATRIOTS
NIGERIA'S CALL OBEY
TO SERVE OUR FATHERLAND
WITH LOVE AND STRENGTH AND FAITH
THE LABOUR OF OUR HEROES PAST,
SHALL NEVER BE IN VAIN
TO SERVE WITH HEART AND MIGHT,
ONE NATION BOUND IN FREEDOM,
PEACE AND UNITY



A PEACEFUL PROTEST
TURNED DEADLY



THE WORLD WATCHED IN REAL
TIME AS THE NIGERIAN
GOVERNMENT SLAUGHTERED
ITS OWN PEOPLE.

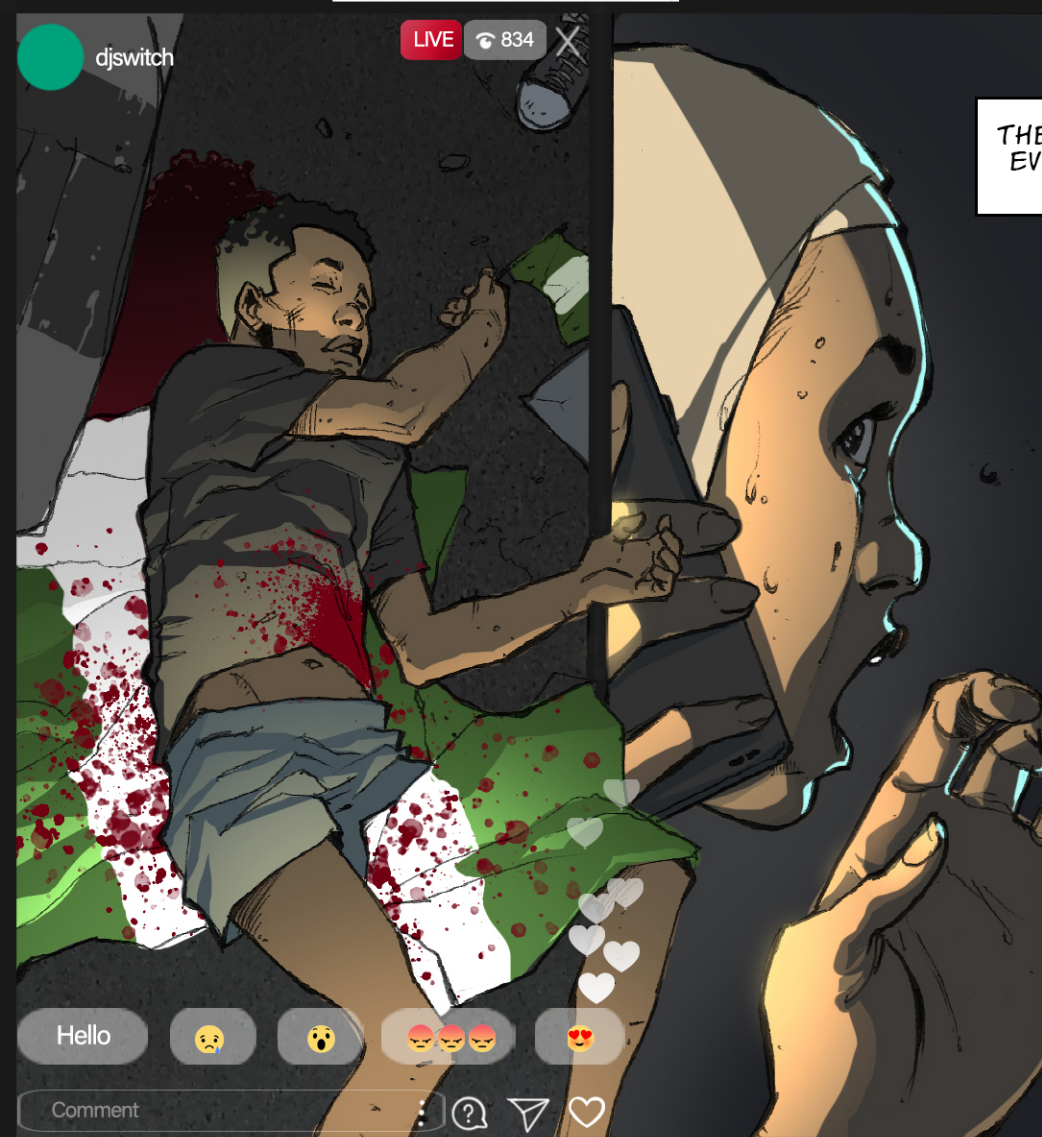


<

"#ENDSARS @AGBOAINO_LEGEND: "IF I DIE TONIGHT I KNOW I DIED AS A HERO
 #LEKKIMASSACRE #ENDSARS
 #ENDPOLICEBRUTALITY
 #ENDBADGOVERNANCEINNIGERIA
 #BUHARIISAMURDERER"
 "#ENDSARS @BIDEMI : DJ SWITCH'S LIVE IS HEARTBREAKING. I CAN'T BELIEVE THIS IS ACTUALLY HAPPENING #BUHARIISAMURDERER"

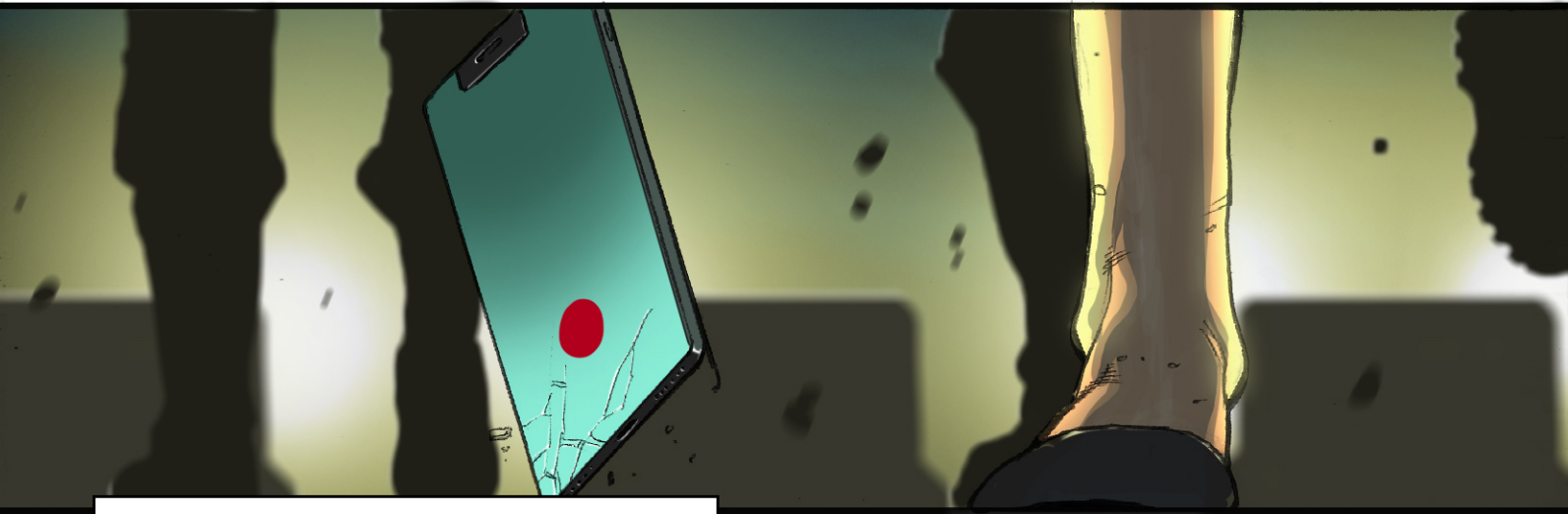
12 34 56

THROUGH DJ SWITCH'S IG LIVE WE ALL WATCHED WITH DISBELIEF.

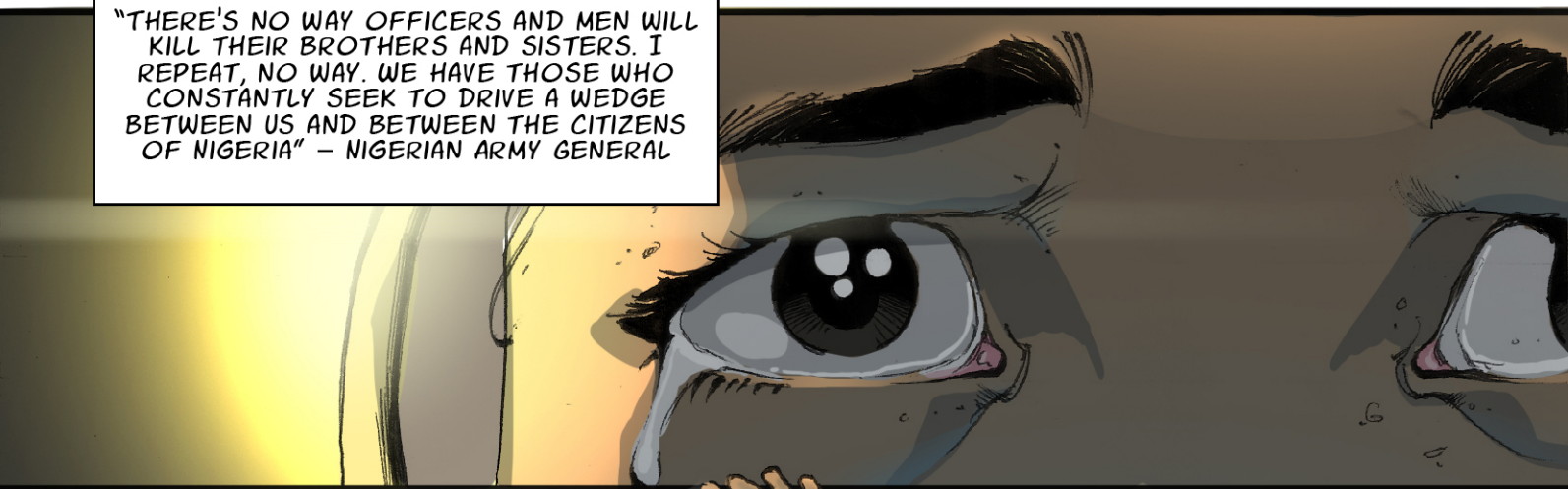


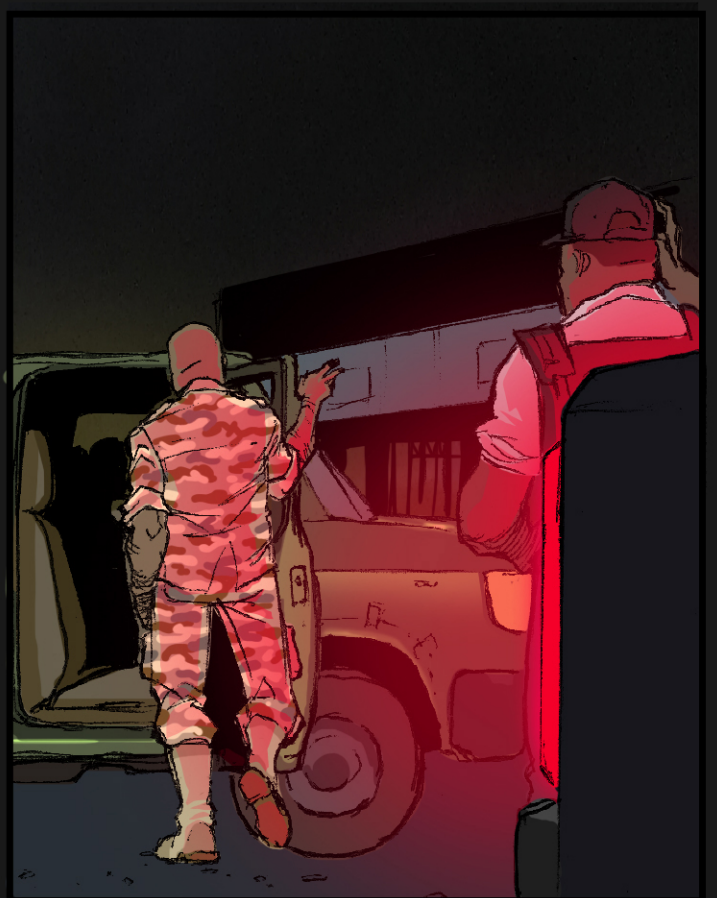
THEY CONTINUED SINGING EVEN WHEN THEY WERE BEING KILLED.





"THERE'S NO WAY OFFICERS AND MEN WILL KILL THEIR BROTHERS AND SISTERS. I REPEAT, NO WAY. WE HAVE THOSE WHO CONSTANTLY SEEK TO DRIVE A WEDGE BETWEEN US AND BETWEEN THE CITIZENS OF NIGERIA" – NIGERIAN ARMY GENERAL





ABOUT 8.39PM

PRESIDENT BUHARI ADDRESSED THE NATION AFTER 2 DAYS OF GRIEF AND DISBELIEF. NOT ONCE DID HE MENTION THE LEKKI TOLLGATE MASSACRE OF 2 NIGHTS BEFORE.



Moe
@mochievous

Do not forget that Curfew was ordered Peaceful protesters sitting on the floor holding hands were shot at

Ambulances were refused to enter until later We watched someone die on Instagram Live

#201020
#EndSars

THEY CAN TRY TO ERASE HISTORY. BUT THEY CANNOT ERASE MEMORY. ESPECIALLY MEMORY CAPTURED IN REALTIME ON OUR SOCIAL MEDIA.



THE REVOLUTION WILL NOT BE TELEVISED. BUT IT WILL BE INSTAGRAMMED.

GLOSSARY

LEKKI TOLL GATE MASSACRE, NIGERIA

On the night of 20 October 2020, at about 6:50 p.m, members of the Nigerian Army opened fire on peaceful End SARS protesters at the Lekki toll gate in Lagos State, Nigeria. Amnesty International stated that at least 12 protesters were killed during the shooting. There were complaints of missing persons and a few were confirmed hospitalized and in critical condition. A day after the incident, on the 21 October, the governor of Lagos State, Babajide Sanwo-olu, initially denied reports of any loss of lives, but later admitted in an interview with CNN that two persons were killed. The Nigerian Army whose officers were the principal actors in the shooting initially denied that the shooting ever happened and that none of its officers were ever at the toll gate, that the video footages of its officers shooting into the crowd were 'photoshopped'. A week later, however, the Nigerian Army admitted that it had deployed soldiers to the toll gate on the orders of the governor of Lagos State. The governor tweeted the next day that "It is imperative to explain that no governor controls the rules of engagement of the army." His tweet was taken to mean that he had not made any such orders.

Meanwhile President Buhari in his address to the nation two days after the incident after much worldwide pressure did not acknowledge the massacre at all and doubled down on a veiled threat to violently quell peaceful protests. The below tweet satirically summarizes the energy of the President's non-reaction: "President came out like: I have been receiving calls from the outside that something is happening in our country, I am not aware. Please those of you outside mind your business. now those of you inside, if I hear pim again, uno go hear am.. #EndSARS" ~@Omoba

DJ SWITCH

Nigerian disc jockey DJ Switch, made a livestream video of the shooting on her Instagram account. Though many other eyewitness videos & footages surfaced in the aftermath of the shooting, her livestream was a catalytic action in real time that would prove as invaluable proof of the shooting. The video catapulted her to nationwide fame. In a video she made on the 23 of October, she clarified that she witnessed the shooting of seven people at the time she was doing the live Instagram video. She said that armed soldiers and police officers shot at her and other peaceful #EndSARS protesters at the Lekki toll gate on the night of 20 October. Among them were officers of the disbanded SARS. She reported that at least 15 people were killed and that soldiers carried the dead bodies away in the cover of night. She has since left the country for Canada following numerous threats to her life.

THE FEMINIST COALITION

The feminist coalition is a group of young Nigerian feminists formed in July 2020 with a mission to champion equality for women in Nigerian society with a core focus on education, financial freedom and representation in public office. They have a vision for a Nigeria where equality for all people is a reality in our laws and everyday lives. The Feminist Coalition were very instrumental in the #EndSars protests in raising funds and providing medical aid, legal aid, relief for victims of police brutality and families of the deceased, organizing a memorial for the Fallen and mental health support.



MOONGIRLS

Before the Rains Came

PARTNERS

