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**DISCOVERY CENTER**

**Hope Away from Home: An Evening with Emi Mahmoud**

**Video Transcript**

**October 22, 2024**

17:32:48

17:32:49 >> Good evening.

17:32:50 Hello everybody and welcome to Seattle.

17:32:53 Welcome to the discovery center for the Gates Foundation.

17:32:57 My name is Valerie Bemo.

17:33:03 I work at the emergency response for the foundation.

17:33:05 We are really honored to have you here, and for those who are from Seattle who don't know, this is our Discovery Center.

17:33:15 It is a place of innovation and fun.

17:33:18 I think if you don't have time today or you want to have time later, it is always open free, but you always leave here inspired.

17:33:28 Then I encourage everybody who have not been here before to find time now when I have people visiting the city, it is the best place.

17:33:37 They always give me a good mark because they are coming to the discovery center.

17:33:42 I will encourage everybody to visit it.

17:33:48 We have a nice exhibition on sanitation.

17:33:50 If you have any question this one person here, just go with her and then she will tell you a bit more.

17:34:00 Today is a special event, and I am really honored to be able to talk about it today.

17:34:10 As I said, I work in humanitarian sectors for the foundation for the last 30 years and I have been involved with many crisis around the world.

17:34:25 Out of the crisis there's a lot of them that we don't hear about often.

17:34:29 I am sure all of you who have heard about Gaza issue -- yes.

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17:34:41 Who have heard about Ukraine and who have heard about central African republican issue?

17:34:49 Who have heard about issue.

17:34:57 There's a lot of crisis that doesn't make the cut.

17:35:00 There's a lot of work that doesn't make the cut.

17:35:02 This is really important for me.

17:35:05 My first experience working with displacement refugees, this was actually during the war in the Sierra Leone.

17:35:15 As you know there was a big war in the 90s, 20s in Sierra Leone.

17:35:24 I worked there and you don't know how the situation will be the next day.

17:35:28 You have movement of population constantly between Liberia, Sierra Leone, some of the places you have to create multiple time.

17:35:38 One things I always sees that people are resilient.

17:35:42 People have story.

17:35:43 We look at crisis as one fits all.

17:35:46 But actually it is a multiplication of small stories.

17:35:51 It is each person, even in the same family, different person will talk about it from different angle and would leave the crisis in a different way.

17:36:04 We are ue man and we all have our story and our stories are unique.

17:36:12 Today we especially want to focus on Sudan.

17:36:15 If many of you have heard I ashum you are here because you heard about the Sudan crisis.

17:36:23 We will come with more detail about what it is.

17:36:25 Just for you, actually since April 2023 the crisis in Susan -- Sudan -- actually it is in and out but never at that level.

17:36:42 One of the crisis I remember in the 2004, 2005 where we have the big exit from the Dafu area.

17:36:56 I was in the area when we received the refugee from Darfur.

17:37:01 I worked there many months.

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17:37:04 First hand I see live dream, but also tears.

17:37:09 That is important.

17:37:11 Today that is what the story is about.

17:37:13 That is what we are supposed to hear.

17:37:15 I also see a lot of smiles and a lot of hope.

17:37:19 Hang out with us here today, and be with us as we go into the evening, and I am excited today, actually, that we have UNHCR.

17:37:35 For those of you that do you know it more.

17:37:37 It is the organization from the UN who is actually in charge of taking care of the refugees.

17:37:43 I usually say they are the mayor or the President that actually followed the story of the refugees and make sure that the right of refugees.

17:37:56 They are taken care of from the basic need to the more emergent need complexity.

17:38:03 Actually even helping them to have a better life.

17:38:05 They go with the refugee from day one until one day becoming their own life.

17:38:11 I think that is a story.

17:38:13 I am really grateful that we have been partnering with UNHCR as the Gates Foundation for many years now.

17:38:21 Actually as the story in Sudan the conflict started last year we did -- as a foundation we did really respond.

17:38:31 Many people here don't know the foundation as emergency.

17:38:34 It is true.

17:38:35 We are not a humanitarian organization from the start, but we also believe that even if you do the long-term development, you cannot do that and ignore the day-to-day suffering of people who are affected by different crisis.

17:38:50 And this is where my team, and I am glad to have one of my colleagues here Jason, who is actually specializing, thinking about when does the crisis what can we do?

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17:39:02 In our team we have the flexibility to be able to do grant rapidly, flexible funding, because I think we believe that the crisis, when you are in the crisis things change every day and people evolve.

17:39:17 We want to give the partner with us to respond but also evolve as the crisis response evolves.

17:39:25 We work across different types of crises including natural disaster, outbreak or conflict.

17:39:33 I think that is how we are working.

17:39:35 Although we are not a part of the foundation but we are an essential part of the foundation, because again we know that this is part of the common world now and we know it is only getting worse and we will have more and more situations where the limits, there is not actually division any more.

17:39:57 Crisis, normalcy is actually fading rapidly and when is a crisis and when -- we don't know any more.

17:40:04 We have to all be aware to look at it as a common and it is almost like -- I usually say it is almost like a disease like diabetes when you take your pill you are sick when you don't you are sick but you are still a diabetic.

17:40:20 We have to look at it as we are all human and just in different sequences, different time and different space, and this is why I am glad to have the room full, because it is important to continue as a human story.

17:40:38 Individual people, it is community.

17:40:40 It is not what we have seen.

17:40:41 The media is not the big crisis it is the accumulation and combination of stories, individual stories.

17:40:48 Today we are really blessed to have Emi Mahmoud here, who I just don't want to say everything, but she will take your heart.

17:40:59 Be careful.

17:41:00 Keep it safe, because by the time you are here your heart will be gone.

17:41:07 She will take it with you.

17:41:08 She will take but she will multiply your heart with her.

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17:41:13 Actually, be open and be -- I want to encourage everybody to open their heart and to just receive the message.

17:41:21 There -- this is about a story.

17:41:26 This is about poetry.

17:41:28 Open your heart.

17:41:30 Receive the gift we have today with Emi.

17:41:35 With that I would like to welcome Kelly Clements the deputy high commissioner for the UNHCR.

17:41:43 We are glad because she is sitting there in the big place in Geneva, but she decided to come, and that is showing we can have the people of the day-to-day but also the organization that is why it is a beautiful place to be.

17:42:02 Thank you.

17:42:06 [Applause]

17:42:37 >> [No microphone]

17:42:43 >> Good evening everybody.

17:42:46 We will move from Valerie to cars back to our program.

17:42:53 [Laughter]

17:42:53 Thank you so, so much for being with us tonight.

17:42:56 I am Kelly Clements.

17:42:57 I am the deputy at UNHCR, the UN refugee agency.

17:43:03 And sometimes I am in Geneva, but not very often.

17:43:07 But I want to tell you just a little bit about the agency.

17:43:10 I know everybody is here to see Emi.

17:43:14 But we are charged not only with protection and aid and finding solutions for refugees and asylum seekers, we also importantly have a responsibility for those without a nationality for stateless people and then for displaced where the majority now of course of the world's forcibly displaced are internal to countries countries not refugees that cross borders.

17:43:42 In terms of the number of people forced to flee today is at a record high level.

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17:43:49 We were formed in the aftermath of World War II.

17:43:53 We were born with a temporary mandate that continued to be renewed every three years until I think world body, member states realized, unfortunately, this is an issue that is perennial.

17:44:05 It will unfortunately not end.

17:44:09 And we are -- we work with partners around the globe.

17:44:13 Around 1200 of them, mostly local and national organizations to be able to provide that protection and aid, and to try to find safety and hope and indeed a home for those that have been forced to flee.

17:44:27 Today we are unfortunately at a place in time where there are 123 million people who have been forced to flee.

17:44:36 This is the size of the 12th largest nation in the world if you were to put people into a country.

17:44:44 So it is a significant number.

17:44:46 It is really -- it is staggering.

17:44:48 And what we are trying to do is end needless suffering through the work that we do and through our partners.

17:44:55 We are working around the clock to meet as Valerie mentioned immediate humanitarian needs but to do it in a different way.

17:45:04 We are trying to support those host communities that are on the frontlines of bringing a large number of people into their communities.

17:45:12 Above all, of course, we want to see conflicts end, to see it possible for people to go home safely, to rebuild their lives, but until then, of course, we need to be there to support them, to help with protection and aid.

17:45:27 Now the situation in Sudan is taking center stage tonight and we are really delighted.

17:45:33 I want to thank Valerie and the team here at discovery and the Gates Foundation for allowing us the opportunity to put a spotlight on the part of the world that unfortunately does not get enough attention.

17:45:47 Sudan has been wrecked with conflict and displacement for decades as Valerie just mentioned.

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17:45:53 As the conflict, this one broke out in April of last year, it has caused the world's largest displacement crises and pushed the region to the brink of a humanitarian catastrophe.

17:46:08 We are entering the second year.

17:46:10 11 million people have been forced to flee.

17:46:12 Most have stayed within the borders of Sudan, but about 2 and a half million people crossed borders into neighboring countries like Chad and south Sudan, Ethiopia, the Central African Republic and Egypt.

17:46:26 They are struggling, really struggling to find adequate housing and healthcare and food, education, and neighboring countries they are on the frontlines.

17:46:38 I saw this, Valerie mentioned and Chad I was in a town between Chad and Sudan months ago.

17:46:49 The hospitality from the Chadian people to keep their borders open to bring Sudanese refugees into a safe place to try to give them what they have is incredible.

17:47:00 Another trip this year was to Rank in south Sudan on the other side looking again at host communities that are trying to give what they can.

17:47:11 What we are talking about is not just conflict and war but we are also talking importantly about climate and cycles of drought and in floods, of destroying crops and potentially livestock and making it very difficult for families to put food on the table.

17:47:28 We have seen unfortunately malnutrition rates that are surging and with millions of people that are just a step away from famine.

17:47:37 Within Sudan ongoing conflict prevents help from reaching those in need, very intense hostilities, remote and difficult to access locations and lagging infrastructure make delivering aid extremely challenging in this environment.

17:47:53 Unrelenting crises have generational effects for those that are caught in the crossfires.

17:48:00 As of April of this year, 19 million Sudanese children were out of school, which represents over 90% of the country's schools that are closed or inaccessible.

17:48:13 This will have, of course, long-term implications for the future and the region for generations to come.

17:48:21 Now the crisis is immense and we are trying with our partners to provide immediate aid and protection.

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17:48:30 And of course, that support that hosts so desperately need.

17:48:35 So today, tonight we are coming together to recognize the courage and the strength and the contributions of people who have been forced to flee and the hosts who are receiving them, but also to bring attention to the humanitarian situation in Sudan.

17:48:51 So it is my very distinct honor now to introduce you to UNHCR's goodwill ambassador, slam poet, a former Sudanese refugee, a Yale graduate, a woman who is eloquent beyond words, and who uses her voice and her poetry to really bring this home and emotions like few of us could ever think about doing.

17:49:28 Emi Mahmoud the floor is yours.

17:49:30 [Applause]

17:49:35 >> Thank you so much.

17:49:36 I am going to dive into it.

17:49:48 Memories of my childhood lived between the rings of sound around my ankles and the desert heat in my lungs.

17:49:57 I still believe nothing washes worried from tired skin better than denial and my Grandma's hands.

17:50:04 Every day I go to school with the weight of dead neighbors on my shoulders.

17:50:08 The first time I saw bomb smoke it didn't wind and bill low like the heat from the kitchen Hart but it forced itself in the dark skies smothering the sun with the tears it stole from our bodies.

17:50:21 The worst thing about genocide isn't the hunger, the murder, politics, government paid soldiers who chase you across borders into camps it is the silence.

17:50:31 For three months they close the schools down because people like us are an eye sore.

17:50:35 The first month we took it.

17:50:37 The second we waited.

17:50:38 The third month we met underneath the date palm trees every second our teachers gave us fruit pits into fractions the last day came a message put them in their place.

17:50:49 We didn't stand a chance.



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17:50:52 Never meant to dance with silver bullets dagger from our backs lifted our voices up to Gods before the clouds sand beneath our soul that ever walked before us.

17:51:05 I hid underneath the bed that day with four other people.

17:51:10 12 years later and I can't help but wonder where my cousins hid when the soldiers torched the houses through the bodies and the wells if weapons didn't get you the poison would.

17:51:21 Sometimes didn't use bullets because it would cost them more than we did.

17:51:25 I have seen 16 ways to stop a heart when you build nations on someone's bones.

17:51:30 What it takes to break them and one day mother choked on rifle smoke my father washed the blood from his face they carried bodies to the hospital and to the graves.

17:51:43 There were 60 we couldn't have the sand and the Sahara tastes a lot like powdered bone.

17:51:49 And when the soldiers came, our blood on their ankles, I remember their laces.

17:51:57 Scarlett footprints on the floor.

17:51:58 I remember waking to the sound of hushed voices in the night etched with the kind of sorrow that turns even loud extremes to ash.

17:52:07 Our parents came home with broken collar bones and a taste of fear carved into their skin and it was impossible to believe in anything.

17:52:16 Fear is the coldest thing in the desert and it burns you boys you down to half of your height and owns you.

17:52:23 No one hears you.

17:52:24 What could grow in the desert anyway?

17:52:29 Thank you.

17:52:29 [Applause]

17:52:39 Thank you so much everyone.

17:52:39 That poem is called "people like us" and it is about where I am from, Sudan and specifically Darfur.

17:52:47 I am also from Philly.

17:52:48 It is nice coming to Seattle and seeing wonderful people who really want to hear about Sudan.

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17:52:53 That's why the selection that I have chosen tonight takes you through the journey of so many things that happened in Sudan.

17:53:02 Every Sudanese person knows if you are Sudanese south Sudan is part of your history.

17:53:07 If you are Sudanese Darfur is part of your history.

17:53:09 The mountains are part of your history.

17:53:11 The revolution of 2019 is part of your history.

17:53:15 The war that has been going on for a year and a half, the genocide that never ended and everything else that is happening is part of your history, your present.

17:53:23 We will not, if we have anything to say about it let any of these things be part of our future.

17:53:30 And that's my hope.

17:53:30 I hope that by the time you hear all of this, about this journey, that our people have been on and hopefully join us on this journey toward creating peace, a lasting peace, you will, you know, you will get to really feel like you know us.

17:53:48 I wanted to say that for me my first understanding of humanitarianism.

17:53:54 I am a humanitarian.

17:53:57 Comes from my grandmother, my mother, my father and everything they taught me.

17:54:03 They taught me to make change you need to not only want it or need it, you have to fight for it.

17:54:11 Otherwise it is not enough.

17:54:12 That is what I am thinking about today as I stand before you.

17:54:15 People all over the world in the most vulnerable positions in our time, women in my native Ukraine and Philistine, refugees, women all over the world, and so many more and people in general are counting on us to remember this now.

17:54:31 To lead with courage and empathy toward sustainable and future peace.

17:54:36 What does that look like when your people are dying?

17:54:40 This next poem bullets tells you something we have learned the hard way, when institutions and countries and leaders are not willing to engage with risk.

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17:54:49 It is young people who are left to take up the charge.

17:54:52 All we have is our own bodies.

17:54:55 Unfortunately the consequences are dire but what other choice do we have.

17:55:00 This is bullets.

17:55:07 My father's voice yanked me awake.

17:55:10 My brother had been shot.

17:55:13 Waiting for that first breath on the other side of the line at a hospital half a world away.

17:55:19 I have never felt fear like that, the thing we have been fighting for the past 11 years had reached the capital and burrowed itself into my next of kin.

17:55:30 I am 21 years old and I know more about death than living.

17:55:34 My life experiences revolve around massacres and funerals.

17:55:38 I know how to start revolutions but I don't know how to lose myself.

17:55:41 I don't know how to give in to this thing called youth because I know how it ends.

17:55:45 I call my brother an idiot and he says live free or die.

17:55:48 He says freedom is a question of life.

17:55:51 If you do not reach for it then you are not alive.

17:55:55 This distinct favor of anarchy stinks of murder stains like the blood of a good patriot and leaves a bitter thirst in your mouth only quenched by liberation.

17:56:07 That night burning cities made me feel numb.

17:56:10 Bullets made me think of my brother so I closed my eyes I dreamt of blood and Darfur and Gaza when I woke breathing makes me feel guilty like I should have been there, like I should have fought, like I should have stood and faced the firing squad.

17:56:27 When you fight for freedom you stomach pain like that.

17:56:29 This body should be lined of bullets one for each of my brothers and sisters who stopped a bullet for me.

17:56:35 It is the mark of our generation.

17:56:38 We are more accustomed to the weight of Molotov cocktails on our bodies than we are to the embrace of one another.

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17:56:44 I don't want that kind of wisdom.

17:56:45 I am still too young for that kind of pain.

17:56:48 Live free or die, die free or live.

17:56:50 I want to wake up in a time where civil disobedience doesn't end in death.

17:56:55 Where children aren't born in the full moon of revolution where I haven't lost more people than there are years in my life this changes you.

17:57:02 Not in some earth moving ground breaking kind of way, but bit by bit and with incredible stillness.

17:57:10 It is the little things.

17:57:12 Like how I cringe at the word protest.

17:57:15 Like how I don't trust any one who isn't fighting.

17:57:19 Like how I am as accustomed to sleeping bodies as I am to dead ones.

17:57:24 Because it is all the same.

17:57:26 My brother hears me frowning through the phone.

17:57:29 He says smile.

17:57:30 You will live longer.

17:57:32 Thank you.

17:57:32 [Applause]

17:57:40 I wrote that poem in 2013 when what usually happens in Sudan and what has been happening is that you -- like our nonviolent protests -- my godfather was the founder of SNCC.

17:57:59 You will my parents civil rights activists worked with MLK.

17:58:03 My parents tried to liberate Sudan over time.

17:58:06 A lot of us have been standing on the shoulders of giants.

17:58:09 Those same giants are fighting the same fight.

17:58:12 My hope is that when we work together these fights will be over soon.

17:58:17 So what I want to say is that I wrote this so long ago, and it is still relevant today.

17:58:22 Our nonviolent resistance is always met with pain.

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17:58:27 When the war broke out over a year and a half ago there were only a few hospitals open nationwide, and those that were open civilians trying to reach them would risk being bombed or shot at or dying from disease or starvation along the way.

17:58:45 Once they arrived often times they found the hospitals looted and doctors targeted, killed.

17:58:53 More than 11 million people have been displaced.

17:58:56 Women and girls have been repeatedly subjected to rape as a weapon of war.

17:59:00 I said women and girls.

17:59:02 This is continue to go happen.

17:59:03 It is what we saw in Darfur and happening now.

17:59:06 It never ended.

17:59:07 This is Sudan's reality.

17:59:09 It is global and also personal.

17:59:10 You have heard in the poem I have lost more people in my life.

17:59:16 I have lost 14 family members.

17:59:20 All civilians all that's what the next poem is about.

17:59:27 I wrote it a year and a half ago.

17:59:37 BALADI means my home.

17:59:39 It means Sudan is my home.

17:59:45 Another war came crashing down on our bodies.

17:59:48 The cut of a broken piece and the bite of a broken promise are the same.

17:59:53 Except with the first one death follows and takes everyone around you.

17:59:58 Back home our skin is green because we are full of life.

18:00:01 A full life looks so different when it is poured out on to the rubble rotting in the streets.

18:00:09 Every university became a grave.

18:00:11 Every garden a final resting place.

18:00:13 Our brothers and sisters fall faster than we can dig the holes.

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18:00:18 On the receiving end of the bullet is a little girl, a mother, a family, a brother, a home.

18:00:25 Air strikes, Dona.

18:00:29 Blood on the streets.

18:00:31 Blood in the mountains.

18:00:35 The pyramids.

18:00:36 Blood across the skies of our beautiful country, Sudan, Baladi.

18:00:42 Who did this to you my love.

18:00:45 Who stripped you bare and turned all of your children lose.

18:00:48 The bodies fall they don't stop.

18:00:50 The killing starts they don't run.

18:00:52 Hoping against hope if it is a mistake we stood quiet maybe it would stop if our hearts beat loud enough they know we are human that we bleed the same blood.

18:01:02 Who decides who lives or dies.

18:01:04 My uncle walked home from prayer.

18:01:07 The bombs soared down from above took him and four neighbors away from us.

18:01:13 My cousin on the way to college.

18:01:15 My uncle resting at home.

18:01:17 Each found a bullet.

18:01:18 Each found an end.

18:01:20 My uncle lost his life when the hospital shuttered became more dangerous.

18:01:28 I held my mother as she cried for her brother.

18:01:31 For all of the people across Sudan.

18:01:34 One off the first day another in the next.

18:01:35 Our families broke fast together one night and planned burials together by morning.

18:01:40 Next day comes there's nowhere to run.

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18:01:43 My country falls to pieces people go missing one by one roads covered sent to the bottom of a crater reduced to a footnote in a world said to be in crisis.

18:01:54 First orphans, now refugees.

18:01:56 For the first time the second or the third home is burning.

18:02:00 See the buildings falling.

18:02:02 See the fire flashing.

18:02:05 Here the people evaporating before our eyes.

18:02:08 The hospitals filled with the wounded and our lungs filled with ash.

18:02:13 The hospitals closed and the borders too and the headlines named our killers but not us.

18:02:18 And the world keeps moving.

18:02:21 And the people whisper, it is a mystery.

18:02:24 And the world keeps moving.

18:02:26 And their names turn to memories in our mouths.

18:02:29 Their names turn to memories in our mouths.

18:02:33 A country without its people.

18:02:35 A people robbed of time.

18:02:38 How can I explain what it is like to sleep and not wake up, or to wake up and know it happened again.

18:02:44 You are oceans away crying, screaming, pleading for our voices to be heard.

18:02:49 Dying for our lives, literally dying for our lives.

18:02:52 In my country wars have ended but peace has never come.

18:02:58 Who bought the bullets?

18:02:59 Who sold the guns?

18:03:01 Who pulled the trigger?

18:03:03 Who decides who lives or dies?

18:03:06 Who will stop the war?

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18:03:08 Who will bring the peace?

18:03:10 Tell me how to make it stop.

18:03:12 Tell me how to make it stop.

18:03:15 Sudan, Balidi who did this to you my love.

18:03:19 My country can you hear me?

18:03:20 My country can you hear me?

18:03:22 Thank you.

18:03:24 [Applause]

18:03:31 This second to last poem is called head over heels.

18:03:37 Because as Valerie so beautifully said earlier, this is not only something that is happening, you know, far away where, you know, none of us are being affected.

18:03:47 It is happening all over the world in so many different circumstances.

18:03:51 And we don't know about all of them.

18:03:53 That's why it is super important to understand when we talk about ending crisis, when we talk about bringing peace, we are talking about bringing peace for everyone ending crisis for everyone.

18:04:03 When you hear somebody from Darfur saying to you we want peace, we want genocide to end.

18:04:08 We want freedom.

18:04:09 We want to see our children grow up.

18:04:11 We want health.

18:04:12 We want to live in a world where we can just be, you know, where you can grow up and be a poet or something.

18:04:20 We want that for everyone.

18:04:22 We don't just want it for us.

18:04:24 Somebody said when you are used to privilege equality can feel like oppression.

18:04:30 It is really hard I have learned over time to tell good people they can do better.

18:04:35 Yeah.



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18:04:36 It is like you are here.

18:04:37 I want you to be here.

18:04:39 It is like I know you have dedicated your whole life to it, but understand for us it is not something that is by choice that we -- how do I say, that we spend our lives advocating.

18:04:51 We are growing up to solve the problems that produced us.

18:04:55 Everyone was having a normal day in Sudan for the most part before the war began.

18:05:01 It was Ramadan, we were getting ready to send food to our family and money for our holiday and the war began.

18:05:08 And this happened over and over and over again.

18:05:10 This poem head over heels I wrote many years ago, but again I dream of a day where my poems are a relic of history and not something that is happening now but it is also how we write our history.

18:05:24 I am indigenous and our language is only oral.

18:05:27 This oral tradition is passed down to us.

18:05:29 Yeah.

18:05:30 And I can tell you the whole history of slam.

18:05:34 It is really cool.

18:05:36 Brought to you by Black people in America.

18:05:42 Here it goes.

18:05:43 This is from my book the Sister's Entrance.

18:05:47 It is not a random person's poem.

18:05:49 Head over heels.

18:05:51 They hand me the microphone --

18:05:53 before I say this one I want to say something important.

18:05:57 Which is when you are told you have a little bit of time to talk about everyone you love and they are all dying and something terrible is going to happen?

18:06:05 What would you say?

BILL & MELINDA  
GATES *foundation*  
**DISCOVERY CENTER**

18:06:06 That's what we think about all of the time.

18:06:08 I hope that this is the first but not the last time that all of us will come together and talk about Sudan and I hope that we will continue to do this and continue to work together until we come together to celebrate Sudan.

18:06:21 You can clap to that.

18:06:23 Amen.

18:06:24 [Applause]

18:06:27 All right.

18:06:28 Head Over Heels.

18:06:31 May there be peace all over the world.

18:06:33 They hand me the microphone as my shoulder sinks under the weight of this dress.

18:06:38 The women says the 1 millionth refugee just left south Sudan can you comment?

18:06:44 I feel the feet walk back and forth on the heels my mother bought.

18:06:50 Do we stay -- begging the question do we stay or is it safer to choose flight?

18:06:55 My mind echos through the numbers.

18:06:58 1 million gone.

18:07:00 400,000 dead in Darfur.

18:07:02 2 million displaced.

18:07:03 And this lump takes over my throat.

18:07:11 The country east and west and south and north so restless the Nile couldn't hold us together and you want me to summarize?

18:07:19 They talk about the numbers as if this isn't still happening.

18:07:23 As if 500,000 didn't just die in Syria, as if 3,000 aren't still making the final stand at the bottom of the Mediterranean.

18:07:33 As if there aren't volumes of fact sheets about our genocides.

18:07:38 Now up want me to write one.

18:07:40 Fact, we never talked over breakfast because the warplanes would swallow our voices.

18:07:47 Fact my grandfather didn't want to leave home so he died in a war zone.

18:07:51 Fact a burning bush without God is just a fire.

18:07:54 I measure the distance between what I know and what is safe to say with a microphone.

BILL & MELINDA  
GATES *foundation*  
**DISCOVERY CENTER**

18:08:00 Do we talk about the sorrow displacement.

18:08:03 Do I mention the violence.

18:08:04 Never as simple as you see on TV.

18:08:07 Weeks of fear before the camera is on.

18:08:09 Do I talk about the bodies 60% water but we burn like drift wood.

18:08:14 Do I tell her the men die first women forced to watch the slaughter they took our children scattering across the continent castles sink at the bite of the bomb.

18:08:25 Do I mention the elderly are heroes too weak to run too expensive to shoot.

18:08:31 How they would March their hands raised rifles at their backs into the fire how they are walking sticks kept the flames alive.

18:08:39 Sounds too far for a bundle of wires in the audience to swallow.

18:08:47 Putrid smoke of our death.

18:08:49 Better in verse sands become a burial shroud.

18:08:52 Will it sting less if you don't see me cry will you listen better 30 seconds for the sound bite and three minutes for the poem.

18:09:00 Why does every word feel like I am saying my last.

18:09:04 My tongue goes dry the same way we died becoming ash without ever having been coal.

18:09:10 I feel my left leg numb and realize I locked my knees bracing for impact.

18:09:18 I never wear shoes I can't run in.

18:09:21 Thank you.

18:09:22 [Applause]

18:09:29 All right everyone.

18:09:33 What does this all mean?

18:09:35 It's heavy.

18:09:36 It is.

18:09:36 But it is the truth.

18:09:38 It is what is happening right now.

18:09:40 How do we keep smiling, how do we keep moving?

18:09:43 I learned that from my family whenever I would go back home to see them.

BILL & MELINDA  
GATES *foundation*  
**DISCOVERY CENTER**

18:09:48 I walked 1,000 kilometers across Sudan for peace ahead of the revolution.

18:09:58 It was just, how do I say?

18:10:00 The hope that I saw as Valerie was saying the hope and inspiration is what keeps me going.

18:10:06 They can take away our lives but they can't take away our humanity.

18:10:10 That's what this is about.

18:10:12 For me the most important things you can't help Sudanese people without Sudanese people.

18:10:18 Reach out talk to us.

18:10:20 Involve us in what you are doing.

18:10:22 Humanitarian problems don't have humanitarian solutions.

18:10:26 When systemic failure leads to millions of people being killed year after year neglected populations like in my native Sudan especially, the same language we use for catastrophescatastrophes, these problems have solutions.

18:10:45 Some of the greatest challenges we face in our lives even if it seems they are not preventible, not only prevent able but Therman made.

18:10:54 Gender gap man-made.

18:10:56 Economic inequality is man-made.

18:10:59 Health and housing is man-made.

18:11:00 War is man-made.

18:11:01 Even the fighting in Sudan is man-made.

18:11:05 What we are dealing with on a global scale every day are problems.

18:11:08 Problems have solutions.

18:11:09 I want you to remember that these are not insurmountable unsolvable things.

18:11:17 They have solutions.

18:11:18 I believe that in everything I do.

18:11:22 [Applause]

18:11:22 Thank you.

18:11:23 That's why I want to share this final poem lessons learned about, you know, these solutions that we can create together.

18:11:33 Oh, yeah, I will say the quote about Ogata another time.

BILL & MELINDA  
GATES *foundation*  
**DISCOVERY CENTER**

18:11:38 I think a lot of you know it.

18:11:41 The late commissioner O gvrn ata wonderful woman for UNHCR.

18:11:47 Humanitarian problems don't have humanitarian solutions.

18:11:52 They have political solutions, economic solutions, humanitarian problems don't have humanitarian solutions because they are not caused by our humanity.

18:12:06 Humanity didn't cause those but I hope they can solve them.

18:12:10 I hope this promises you to leave with hue malty.

18:12:13 This is Lessons Learned.

18:12:17 In kindergarten after they taught us to read and write they told us we could change the world.

18:12:24 Those have been in my mind ever since.

18:12:26 They were right about reading an writing but there are few things they missed about changing the world.

18:12:31 I see the planes above the sky they always came in pairs stealing the sound from our throats, the time from our lives.

18:12:38 I used to be afraid of fireworks because of the noise how it echoed gun shots I heard in Yemen, Sudan mimic of what we knew of bomb blasts.

18:12:49 Fearing the night is not anywhere near terrifying as hearing the day.

18:12:55 You know what it means when they don't have to hide behind darkness.

18:12:59 They only hid behind the notion that no one would care for us.

18:13:04 This is a story about how everyone changed to care.

18:13:07 How people like us took back the light and used it to illuminate the books we read and write.

18:13:14 When I was young I would visit family knowing full well some I would never see again.

18:13:20 I made memories where they often would and could be the last.

18:13:26 In a race that was stolen in man flee of us.

18:13:31 We work to stop effect of decades of neglect, the Barbs of inequality running Fishers deep down.

18:13:40 The moment I take to catch my breath crashing down on me permission course correct on die lengths.

18:13:51 Every moment we are not actively choosing good.

BILL & MELINDA  
GATES *foundation*  
**DISCOVERY CENTER**

18:13:54 We are choosing something else.

18:13:56 Here's what they missed about changing the world.

18:13:59 Never a question of whether you can change the world or not everyone changes the world every day.

18:14:06 It is a question will you change it for the better or for the worse.

18:14:11 What will you choose?

18:14:12 If not us then who?

18:14:14 If we will stop who will carry on.

18:14:18 It goes through my mind in ruins just like this one.

18:14:23 It doesn't diminish it resonates across cultures and borders and time.

18:14:27 We talk about people as abstractions and distraction as a social phenomenon we mask what is dying to be known.

18:14:35 There are real people here in these rooms and conversations and essays we write and books we publish and movements we champion echoing in the halls we study in and board rooms we occupy and investments we make there are people hindered in the language of academia and profit of change there are people in the empathy we scrape barrels of apathy the people and conversation we will have about what countries will do about our lives there are people in the trails of jet fuel on the wings of promise in Dar

18:15:18 The aunts and uncles I cherish refugees.

18:15:24 Generations upon generations robbed of prosperity.

18:15:28 Casualties.

18:15:29 I lost just as many loved ones in the language of protocol and theories of conflict, theories of change as I did on the ground and the words would get broader and brighter masking what is here in etiquette and precedent.

18:15:44 It dawned on me I read a book in college once that said Darfur has no valuable minerals, no favorable sons or daughters or monuments to attract anything but the hardest of visitors.

18:16:01 Darfur came from a void.

18:16:04 I don't know what it means to be a woman speaking like a void.

18:16:08 We are the answer.

18:16:11 Everyone contained in this moment is the answer.

18:16:14 The dedication, the meeting of all of our minds, we breakdown the language stop with the progress and humanity changed for eternity.

BILL & MELINDA  
GATES *foundation*  
**DISCOVERY CENTER**

18:16:25 We have a path full of promise pulling back from the Teetering edge.

18:16:32 We will succeed because there is no other choice but to succeed.

18:16:38 The patient -- I want us to get their first.

18:16:42 I studied science but I choose poetry because every word I have taken you can take devastation and turn it into triumph to take pain and we would the compassion we need to make the better future in this world happen.

18:16:58 It is the only way I learned to thrive.

18:17:01 I am reminded of a meeting with an uncle in Paris.

18:17:08 I know you are far away.

18:17:11 I like to think of us all at constellations.

18:17:15 I lay at night envisioning the beacons of youth connected no matter what.

18:17:22 His words strengthen me now as we ROHIT we create a future.

18:17:27 The only thing that lights up the sky is us.

18:17:30 Thank you.

18:17:31 Thank you everyone.

18:17:37 [Applause]

18:17:58 Thank you everybody.

18:18:59 >> All right everyone.

18:19:02 Thank you Emi for setting the stage for what is going to be a beautiful conversation and I think an opportunity to hear one more piece of poetry from you this evening.

18:19:11 What a gift for everybody here in the room tonight.

18:19:17 I am Suzanne EHLERS we are the US national partner with the UN refugee agency.

18:19:24 I have the delightful honor that is also called my job of building partnerships and raising awareness for and strengthening the brand of the UN refugee agency.

18:19:37 After a lifetime of global nonprofit development work much of which has been supported by the Gates Foundation.

18:19:45 It is an immense privilege to do this work.

18:19:49 This activates me like none other.

18:19:51 To be in partnership with individuals like emmy and Kelly and so many of you in the room what a great opportunity to be here tonight.

BILL & MELINDA  
GATES *foundation*  
**DISCOVERY CENTER**

18:20:00 I will do a quick round of thank yous first with you and what a gift you have shared and how much you moved this room.

18:20:08 Emi performed at the Kennedy Center in conversation with Ann Curry.

18:20:12 I feel like I am in Ann Curry's seat that's an honor and lift for me.

18:20:18 Thank you Emi for bringing that to Seattle.

18:20:21 Kelly, thank you.

18:20:22 I have seen you tireless in action over the two years we have worked with closely but really the last few days speaking to versatile audiences about the work of the refugee agency.

18:20:37 It has been incredible to see you reframe and lift up the work of the agency in ways all audiences could connect with.

18:20:47 Thank you for sharing your lifetime of experience and career wisdom for setting the stage for what we are about to do I want to take you back to June of this year.

18:21:00 You will see occasionally the New York Times.

18:21:04 There was front page story about Sudan in June of this year.

18:21:09 It stopped my heart.

18:21:11 The photo on the front page was a 14-year-old boy and 14-year-old daughter.

18:21:17 He was on a bed.

18:21:19 His mother having been shot in the stomach.

18:21:21 He was going to survive it sounded like but the anguish in the mother's face and the resilience in his face was a way to start my Sunday to reactivate me.

18:21:34 To bring attention to what is happening in Sudan for a crisis that is not in the headlines but should be.

18:21:42 Just to sort of place where we are as this crisis rages on and as Emi said for almost two years.

18:21:51 For the next couple minutes we are going to pause and focus our energy on what we learned from a data and statistics perspective but also creative and artistic perspectives.

18:22:03 I am going to engage with these two stars and lift up our shared humanity.

18:22:08 People of Sudan need champions like you.

18:22:11 As we have gotten to know each other one thing I have heard you say again and again is really not giving voice to those who are marginalized because they have voice.

18:22:21 But it is carving a path and providing opportunities and platforms for those voices to get heard.



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**DISCOVERY CENTER**

18:22:28 I think we could all imagine why that is important to you and why it is your passion but we want to hear from you why this path.

18:22:38 >> Thank you so much.

18:22:40 Thank you everyone for their kindness and listening.

18:22:43 When I speak about Sudan and perform it is like I am bringing family into the room.

18:22:49 For me it is very, very meaningful that you received this and that I hope it is meaningful to you as well.

18:22:55 The reason I say I dedicate myself to fostering or facilitating marginalized voices or different sectors I work in, for me what I saw day one when I was hiding under the bed as a little kid, I remember asking my family why fight so hard to go to school.

18:23:17 My uncles had blood on their clothes.

18:23:19 This is the year 2000 before it was declared genocide.

18:23:27 Genocides exist way before they acknowledge them.

18:23:32 I was 7 years old I said to my uncle why would you risk your life.

18:23:38 To me an older uncle.

18:23:40 He said if we don't do anything about it no one will ever know we were here.

18:23:46 We do have voices.

18:23:47 We fight for our voices.

18:23:49 There were days, decades even where nobody knew about any of us in Sudan and how we were being killed.

18:23:57 Even our fellow Sudanese didn't know because of the divide and conquer that the regime was doing and the apathy and a lot of the guilt that exists.

18:24:07 Over time when we are erased in person we tend to be erased also in media and practice.

18:24:13 And it works the other way around too.

18:24:16 If you are erasing people's voices you are almost cosigning the erasure on the ground.

18:24:25 Helping create spaces where our voices can be heard by more people and understood is twofold.

18:24:33 One it is to push back against erasure and two fundamentally believe any one who knows what is going on would want to do something.

18:24:42 The fact that they don't know is to me a sign of progress that can be made.

18:24:50 It can be disheartening but it makes me feel like if they knew they would move.

BILL & MELINDA  
GATES *foundation*  
**DISCOVERY CENTER**

18:24:57 Any one can villainize an nod.

18:25:00 A person, a survivor you think about abstractions, have you met a refugee?

18:25:09 Are you met a survive or or.

18:25:15 When a person is standing in front of you it is impossible not to see their humanity and to feel it.

18:25:23 >> Beautiful.

18:25:25 [Applause]

18:25:28 I always think in the work we do that as difficult as it is it is also an enormous privilege to spend our hours every day and every week working on these kinds of issues.

18:25:38 People are motivated and can be inspired, but you do have to provide different entry points.

18:25:43 It is a beautiful thing that you provide this artistic entry point for people to be moved in action by what people learned and heard from you.

18:25:55 I have traced your career for all of its wonderful year.

18:26:02 Forged collection, you have advocated for the core mandate for the protection work at the heart of this UN agency.

18:26:10 I would love for this audience could get maybe a little bit of taste of that, maybe a sample of what you have seen and born witness to in your work at UNHCR or specifically that is fragile contexts we know Sudan to be.

18:26:30 >> Thank you both.

18:26:31 I am not in a very enviable position here next to this extraordinary individual.

18:26:38 And I have to -- and literally at times I have no words after hearing this kind of eloquence I have heard before.

18:26:52 Thank you for sharing again Emi.

18:26:54 I have heard you a dozen times at least if not more and each time it is deeply, deeply moving.

18:27:01 Thank you Susan.

18:27:04 Back at you in terms of those compliments.

18:27:12 A lot of what we heard over the last couple of days in Seattle I can relate to my travels and all of the times I have spent with people that have been forced to flee or have been receiving those forced to flee.

18:27:32 One of the words that have come back multiple times in the last 36 hours is connection.

BILL & MELINDA

GATES *foundation*

## DISCOVERY CENTER

18:27:40 One of the things emmy did tonight is profound and takes such skill is she has connected with us.

18:27:49 She has connected even though we are not from Darfur.

18:27:53 We have not lost 14 family members since the war began, but it is something that is deep in you and in your gut when you hear that kind of an experience.

18:28:08 Suzanne to get to your question, each of those conversations that I have in these contexts whether it is in Adray or in Ranks or Kiev, each of those conversations you are relating to a person.

18:28:28 Relating to intun who has a family or lost a family someone thinking about the basics of how they are going to make end meets, what are they going to do next?

18:28:39 Where is the safe place to sleep.

18:28:40 Who can they rely on, who can they trust?

18:28:44 Who can they trust, can they trust their neighbors, I think in those conversations for me that is first some of the most precious time that I spend when I am in Geneva but it is connecting with people but it is also to be able to relate as a mother, as a sister, as a daughter, and then the conversations too that I have particularly with women with mothers, are often about their children and what's going to happen to their children next.

18:29:23 That's where the connection becomes very real.

18:29:26 Because while my challenges are certainly far different at a basic let's come back to a word that you used Emi, it is about humanity, and it is about connection and it is about relating to the needs of others, and what can we do in our places of -- whether it is an organization like minor as a neighbor with someone who has just joined you who might need a little bit of support, but it is about making that connection.

18:30:06 I have been deeply moved after the day plus trip in Seattle.

18:30:11 Not my first here.

18:30:12 This community is one of inclusion.

18:30:18 Whether we talk about what really works in the context around the world where so many people don't have a home, it is about making that community wherever they are.

18:30:28 That's really very powerful way to heal a situation that one cannot explain.

18:30:39 Thank you, Kelly.

18:30:40 A lot of words in there, yeah.

18:30:44 Emdz I am going to go back as a creativecreative writer myself I want to ask about poetry.

18:30:56 It is so moving as we come back to your lived experience.

BILL & MELINDA  
GATES *foundation*  
**DISCOVERY CENTER**

18:30:59 We hear it in your voice as you have matured and evolved see some parts of the world the same and parts of it differently.

18:31:10 What is it about poetry for your vehicle putting the message out into the world?

18:31:16 >> It is really wonderful hearing all of you.

18:31:21 Whenever I've worked with you Kelly now that I have worked with Suzanne.

18:31:29 It is about having different allies and why do I use poetry as my tool.

18:31:36 I believe if you speak to somebody politically they will respond politically.

18:31:41 If you speak academically they will respond academically.

18:31:45 If you speak with hate they will respond with hate.

18:31:48 If you speak with your humanity they are compelled to.

18:31:53 Poetry is the best way to breakdown barriers.

18:31:57 I studied at Yale I got a certificate in global health.

18:32:03 I sit on investment committee for grand challenges in Canada I am a nerd through and through.

18:32:09 Poetry is how I connect.

18:32:10 It allows you not only to set the tone but it has you sit as equals, as people just trying to make things easier for other people.

18:32:24 Who wouldn't want to make people's lives better?

18:32:27 >> Let's continue that theme a little bit.

18:32:31 Let's talk about how under reported how horrifically unreported the conflict in Sudan is.

18:32:39 You mentioned the Central African Republic.

18:32:42 Half of my family doesn't know it is a country in the world.

18:32:46 Places that don't get the headlines they deserved.

18:32:50 I am wondering what can you tell us what can you tell us about Sudan we don't know.

18:32:58 I think about the poem Susan Baladi.

18:33:02 You talk about the mountains and hills and sand and the color.

18:33:09 What isn't told about the beauty of your country?

18:33:12 >> It is going to make me cry.

18:33:16 Sudan is like no other.

BILL & MELINDA  
GATES *foundation*  
**DISCOVERY CENTER**

18:33:19 Our history is so deep and diverse.

18:33:22 I think maybe what I can tell you the city that I am from.

18:33:27 It is currently under siege.

18:33:33 I have family members in danger everyone is experiencing that.

18:33:40 My city if I tell you what it is like it sounds like I am writing a poem.

18:33:47 We are surrounded by 7 mountains 7 hills.

18:33:53 There is this beautiful playground with a lake that is in the center.

18:33:57 All of the homes were built around over time by different families and our families are all connected.

18:34:04 I did grow across many parts of Hussein.

18:34:08 If you go to Angelina.

18:34:10 It literally means little heaven or little garden.

18:34:15 There is so much green you don't know about.

18:34:18 If you go to [Inaudible] it is the tallest mountain in Sudan.

18:34:23 It is a dormant volcano it has a greater lake and it is the fewer eggs -- greenest.

18:34:37 That is something I can tell you about the land of Sudan.

18:34:41 What I can tell you everyone you meet who is Sudanese you are the nicest people the sweetest people.

18:34:52 I met a Sudanese person and I am already in his house.

18:34:55 I dream of a day where our country, our leaders have the same reputation as our people.

18:35:01 This is what I want to tell you that people don't hear about.

18:35:06 Our people don't consent to this war.

18:35:09 We want peace, freedom.

18:35:14 Justice.

18:35:16 Where young people paid the toll with their blood.

18:35:19 They were peaceful, completely peaceful.

18:35:26 Carried out a month long peaceful protest walking across Sudan.

18:35:30 It is hard in those circumstances a lot of people when they see the country they see power and control.

BILL & MELINDA  
GATES *foundation*  
**DISCOVERY CENTER**

18:35:36 They don't see people.

18:35:37 For us it is our home.

18:35:39 When you think about home when you think of peace everything we want everything we agree on is we all want peace.

18:35:49 I hope some day Sudan's reputation is going to be led by its people and Sudan itself will be led by the people.

18:35:57 If we work together that can come true.

18:36:00 >> Beautiful.

18:36:07 [Applause]

18:36:07 >> I am not sure there's a better answer to end on.

18:36:12 I am going to take the question to the audience when we have a reception afterwards how we can make a difference and take what we have experienced and move forward.

18:36:24 You should ask any one.

18:36:27 I think the stage is yours once more.

18:36:49 >> Such a nice conversation I wasn't ready.

18:37:12 All right everyone.

18:37:16 Am I going silenced [Laughter]

18:37:22 The last two poems really goes with what you said about being a mother and a daughter.

18:37:27 I am not great at naming poems.

18:37:31 I always joke somebody else has to name my children.

18:37:33 The first poem is mama the second poem is daughter.

18:37:38 I think kind of like the question that you said I think one of the most important things is having allies having people who are around who really want to help institutions are people.

18:37:49 A quick question in allyship.

18:37:52 It doesn't say come listen you have to hear about Sudan.

18:37:56 They use the platform and space everyone so-and-so has something to say passes the mic.

18:38:04 That is really important.

18:38:07 There are so many refugee led initiatives.

18:38:11 There are so many times where I have said I want do in charge they said you already are.

BILL & MELINDA  
GATES *foundation*  
**DISCOVERY CENTER**

18:38:18 Be an ally in any space that you can be.

18:38:24 The reason I choose to end on mama and daughter, you heard today so many different things about how women and girls are affected.

18:38:32 Not just women and girls.

18:38:34 The reality is the most vulnerable people are the most affected in crisis.

18:38:39 We are also the people called upon to clean it up.

18:38:42 Women are at the forefront of change, the revolution, the buffer between society and chaos where queen Candice we are descendants of the heritage.

18:38:53 The long story short.

18:38:55 Anthropologist coming out.

18:38:57 The long story short is once it is time to rebuild or once the war is over a lot of times they are pushed aside again.

18:39:05 We can't have that.

18:39:06 I want to hopefully meet you in a world or help create a world together where women lead and are allies for generations and generations to come.

18:39:16 [Applause]

18:39:17 How very fitting considering, yeah.

18:39:20 Women leading and success doesn't mean one woman leading or one woman becoming president hopefully.

18:39:29 But it means generations and generations of women are leading and it is something that isn't even novel any more.

18:39:37 Don't ever close the door behind you is what I want to say.

18:39:43 Let's go.

18:39:44 Okay.

18:39:45 Start with mama.

18:39:46 Which is where we came from, hopefully daughter is the future.

18:39:53 Oldest of 6 kids youngest is 8 years old.

18:39:55 Second poem is about her first one is moms and matriarchs.

18:40:00 These ones you can have fun.

18:40:01 Who has ever been to a poetry competition.

BILL & MELINDA  
GATES *foundation*  
**DISCOVERY CENTER**

18:40:05 How do you react?

18:40:07 What else can you do, mmm, mmm.

18:40:11 Yes, poet.

18:40:12 No I am kidding.

18:40:13 Whatever.

18:40:13 Here is mama.

18:40:15 This is your reward.

18:40:21 Find an ally, do something about Sudan.

18:40:25 Okay great.

18:40:26 Thank you for having us Valerie and thank you for having why you everyone.

18:40:31 Thank you.

18:40:31 So I am walking down the street when a man stops me and says yo sister are you from the mother land?

18:40:38 Because my skin is a shade too dark not to have come from foreign soil.

18:40:42 This garment on my head screams Africa.

18:40:45 My body is a beak con saying flock to the mother land.

18:40:49 I am from Sue Dan, why.

18:40:52 He says yes you is you got a flavor in you.

18:40:56 I am admiring what your mama gave you.

18:40:59 Let me tell you something about my mama.

18:41:02 She could reduce a man to tattered flesh without so much as blinking.

18:41:06 Her words fester beneath your skin the whole time you won't be able to skop cradling her eyes more mid able women walks to the war zone has warriors carrying at her feet.

18:41:19 My mama hold all of us in her face and body and blood.

18:41:24 She always holds us close keeping us safe from caving in.

18:41:28 When I was 7 my mama cradled bullets in the bill lows of her robes.

18:41:35 That same night she came home taught me how to get gun powder out of cotton with a bar of soap.

18:41:42 When they held her with guns who are you?



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18:41:46 I am the daughter of Adam.

18:41:47 Who the hell are you?

18:41:49 The last time we went home we watched our village burn.

18:41:56 Soldiers pulling blood from civilian skulls as if they could turn water into wine.

18:42:02 The woman who raised me said I am your mother I won't let them come through.

18:42:09 Bruised risk tired eyes titanium plated spines daughters of widows carried countries between their shoulder blades.

18:42:16 I am not saying that dating is a first world problem, but these trifling guys seem to be.

18:42:25 The kind -- I essential soared that one.

18:42:28 The kind these guys seem to be the kind who -- who -- sorry.

18:42:37 Trees guys seem to be the kind who will quote rum me but not know what he sacrificed for war.

18:42:45 Turned the racial filters on take politics with a latte I take mine with tear gas.

18:42:52 Introduction to the dark side wants me to open up this skin and let him read every tearful page.

18:42:58 What survivor wasn't had her struggle be made spectacle.

18:43:01 Don't talk about the mother land when being African meerns waking up in this country.

18:43:08 My flavor is insurrection it is rebellion resistance.

18:43:13 It is burn and grit and compromise.

18:43:15 You don't know compromise until you built your home without bricks or mortar without any option I turned to the man and said, my mother and I don't walk the streets alone back home any more.

18:43:31 Back home there are no streets to walk any more.

18:43:37 Thank you.

18:43:40 [Applause]

18:43:41 All right.

18:43:46 Thank you guys.

18:43:49 Those are claps for my mama.

18:43:51 This is daughter.

18:43:55 I will let it speak for itself.

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18:43:59 Let there be peace.

18:44:02 Everyone hates being a teenager can you imagine being a teenager in a place like this.

18:44:09 The uncle says if you grow up to marry someone outside of your tribe your children won't be long to us it will belong to someone else.

18:44:18 Your brothers can but you never.

18:44:21 The finality of the word never.

18:44:23 Why I manage.

18:44:24 I feel the fire of protests die in my belly as I see answers because you are a girl.

18:44:32 The words he didn't say cuts deeply as those who did.

18:44:36 Because you are a girl can't.

18:44:38 Because you are a girl speak less be humble and soft you are too hard if you want more in your life than you are given you are lucky enough to be acknowledged don't question it because you are a girl.

18:44:54 I grew more silent with each next word he spoke.

18:44:58 It is lucky really that your parents have a son.

18:45:04 I begin to mourn all of the matriarchs in my family tree.

18:45:09 My very name Emi Mahmoud an homage to all of my fathers and their fathers history of invisible mothers who denied their place in practice and in our own memories.

18:45:24 First born daughter disinherited of her own self worth.

18:45:29 Girl echoes through the chambers of my mind like a filthy word I begin to distance myself from the notion only to feel the heart of every first born daughter and second and third I felt I should cry I yelled with rage my bodies shook and my hands did too.

18:45:52 You don't know anything.

18:45:54 Tough mother. Outer most membrane of the human brain just below the skull and the only thing between you and oblivion.

18:46:06 I hid behind science to take away the sting of what he had said leaning on that tough mother to fight the exterior thorough enough I became the dur raw mother shielding myself from words that cut and sting and maim.

18:46:23 The heart of a woman is strong, but the voice of a little girl couldn't stand up to him as I can now.

18:46:28 If he had dared speak to me as I am now.

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18:46:31 If he had dared come to me as I am now and not at that vulnerable age I would have turned to the heavens lifted my hands in prayer.

18:46:39 I would have called on every one of my invisible mothers and I would have said to his eternal give me a daughter.

18:46:49 Give me a daughter to change the world.

18:46:51 Give me a daughter to shake the room with her voice.

18:46:54 Give me a daughter to break tradition.

18:46:59 Give me a daughter to break every sealing climb every mountain just by the strength of being her.

18:47:05 Give me a daughter to speak not only when spoken to to be not only to ask to to succeed not only when permitted to give me a daughter.

18:47:17 Give me a daughter to take her rightful place as a full and unincome berred equal among 4 trillion other daughters across the world leading us into a limitless future.

18:47:30 Give me a daughter like mother earth.

18:47:33 Give me --

18:47:34 [Applause]

18:47:36 >> Yes.

18:47:38 Give me -- that's what I am talking about.

18:47:41 I was about to say are you guys not for women's equality.

18:47:45 Come on.

18:47:46 No I am kidding.

18:47:48 Give me a daughter like mother earth.

18:47:52 Give me a daughter like Venus, like a planet so gorgeous it shines brighter in all of the stars of the sky yet deadly atmosphere can even melt give me a daughter who would write her own sonnets books and poems about her.

18:48:13 Give me a daughter who will walk the path she chooses who will write her story in any way she pleases.

18:48:23 Who won't be long toy one herself.

18:48:28 Give me a daughter she may not know the sting of the words no or never you are not strong enough or quiet enough or you talk too much or don't talk enough.

18:48:39 You are too smart or you are smart enough.

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18:48:43 Give me a daughter who knows what I am talking about here who will say because you are a girl people really used to say that.

18:48:50 Give me a daughter so she can dream higher than all of the dreams my mothers gave to me than even the dreams I will give to her.

18:48:59 Give me a daughter so I can raise her to be all that she wants to be.

18:49:03 When she cries let me be there to hold her.

18:49:08 When she laughs let me be there to listen when she lives let me be there to celebrate every waken moment.

18:49:24 Seen or unseen, future or present?

18:49:26 Lift your head up.

18:49:27 Your crown is slipping.

18:49:29 Give me a daughter.

18:49:30 Give me a daughter, give me a daughter so humanity can succeed.

18:49:35 I never saw that man again.

18:49:38 But when I told my parents they too laughed.

18:49:42 My father said come here.

18:49:43 We sat all together and learned all of the names of the matriarchs in my family not just my mothers and grandmothers but my aunts and great aunts too.

18:49:53 He had memorized every name, my mother too.

18:49:58 Amera, Halema, Amna, Loretta.

18:50:06 Asha, Lulu.

18:50:08 You are and always will be more than enough.

18:50:12 You my child are the best thing that ever happened to me.

18:50:17 Thank you.

18:50:21 [Applause]

18:50:22 Thank you so much everybody.

18:50:22 Thank you.

18:50:48 >> Thank you, thank you, thank you Emi.

18:50:52 Thank you.

18:50:55 Are you wowed?

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18:50:58 Do you still have your heart?

18:51:00 Is it bigger?

18:51:03 Multiplying.

18:51:04 I told you.

18:51:06 I told you.

18:51:06 Let us just, I like doing everybody. that I know my team is looking at me let

18:51:32 Take a deep exhale.

18:51:36 Again.

18:51:38 [Breathing in and out]

18:51:41 Thank you.

18:51:42 Thank you Emi for making our heart vibrate.

18:51:47 I was listening and I just --

18:51:51 you helped me to carry out all of the journey I did all to be here together, and I always remember one of my first story of realize it is about people, it is about connection as you well said one day I was in one of the refugee camp there was the one Liberia and they say big number of people coursing and they run like hundred people, thousand people just moved.

18:52:31 We are there looking at what we do really busy.

18:52:36 Busy, busy.

18:52:37 As I move I hear a man who is a man who is just there singing then you come with this is something people are bad.

18:52:54 I I turn with him.

18:52:56 He was singing happy.

18:52:59 Normally you should not be in this condition and be happy.

18:53:03 You come -- I come with all of my anxiety then I turn to him it is like, why are you so happy?

18:53:11 He look at me and say why not to be happy.

18:53:19 I said say more.

18:53:22 Even if it is just basic I have a small roof.

18:53:25 I have been able to eat something, to have a drink.

18:53:29 All of my family nobody passed.

18:53:32 I have my children with me and my wife and I still feel the son is beautiful.

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18:53:40 Whatnot to be happy.

18:53:41 As you start seeing people, seeing number, looking at numbers, I want you to remember that everybody have a heart.

18:53:53 Everybody hope that their daughter would do better or their son.

18:53:59 Everybody have dreams and want the best for their kids or for their community.

18:54:05 You have to remember that in each story there is hope and there are fears.

18:54:14 One thing I am coming from Africa as well.

18:54:17 I am here standing as I was listening not because I did so good but because I have people behind.

18:54:24 I have my mom who fight, and I am coming from a culture of really good patriarchs.

18:54:35 Normally I should not be here I am a doctor and I am here.

18:54:38 People fight for me.

18:54:40 [Applause]

18:54:41 Thank you.

18:54:41 People fight for me.

18:54:42 My mom fight for me.

18:54:44 My grandmother fight for me.

18:54:46 I remember one time my grandmother.

18:54:48 I was looking at her and she said, she was of course one wife of four in the Polygamist, not go to school but this is the smartest woman.

18:55:04 One day I complain why you let him do this.

18:55:07 What is going on?

18:55:08 You are smarter than that.

18:55:11 I am like what do you mean?

18:55:14 She said we know who have the power here.

18:55:19 She always talked to your heart and passion.

18:55:24 But never stop fighting.

18:55:26 Never make sure that peace and rightness is part of it.

18:55:31 And her name is Bemo.

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18:55:33 That's my name.

18:55:34 I took her name.

18:55:35 I want to honor her, but also I want to honor the allies.

18:55:40 She mentioned the allies.

18:55:44 Yes, my grandmother and my mom were really powerful.

18:55:47 What make them even more powerful is they have men.

18:55:51 My grandfather was at school he said everybody has to go to school.

18:55:57 My father fights so hard with all of my uncles to say leave her alone she do what she wants.

18:56:03 I am the father that is why we also hear.

18:56:06 I want to encourage everybody here, it is about I am sure.

18:56:13 You want them to kick bike your dad.

18:56:21 I want to embrace you these people are numbers.

18:56:27 Maybe they are threatened.

18:56:29 Maybe they -- they are people who did not choose where to be and they were just in the wrong place in the wrong time.

18:56:38 But they still have that same human willing.

18:56:45 You won't imagine where I felt the most at home, the most giving is not here in Seattle.

18:56:51 It is where people have I give to them. e lost everything

18:57:04 That to me is a message of today.

18:57:07 Also if you continue seeing them as what they have.

18:57:11 That means that heart that dignity verses what they don't have or what they lost it will change your way of being.

18:57:17 I will encourage you to continue.

18:57:21 Thank you Emi.

18:57:24 Thank you the Discovery Center for hosting us and the Gates Foundation and colleagues who helped organize it.

18:57:33 Thank you --

18:57:36 >> Thank you Valerie.

18:57:38 >> Thank you Valerie.

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18:57:39 We will continue the conversation.

18:57:41 There's more food and drink.

18:57:43 Help yourself and we will be around to chat and to talk.

18:57:47 Thank you everybody.

18:57:48 [Applause]

18:57:57 >> We are running about a half an hour late.

18:58:01 So we are closing the bar soon.

18:58:03 If you want to grab a drink grab it now.

18:58:05 Plenty of food out.

18:58:07 Validation is at the front.

18:58:08 Please take time to fill out our survey it is on-line here as well as at the front desk.

18:58:14 We have a printed copy.