

# SEEKING REFUGE

## HAMID'S STORY – A JOURNEY FROM ERITREA



BASIC FACTS	AFGHANISTAN	GERMANY
Capital	Asmara	Berlin
Population	6,233,682	81,147,265
Area	121,320 sqkm	357,022 sqkm
Religion	Christians 63%, Muslim 37%	Protestant 34%, Catholic 34%, Muslim 3.7%

1. Before watching the film about Hamid from Eritrea find the country on the map and compare its basic facts to those of Germany.

2. Find reasons from the text why a lot of Eritreans have left their country for many years and are still leaving.

### War between Eritrea and Ethiopia

Eritrea, a country in the Horn of Africa, an Italian colony since 1885, became part of Ethiopia in 1952. The Eritreans, however, wanted their own country. After fighting for freedom for about thirty years, Eritrea became independent in 1993. Five years later a border war between Ethiopia and Eritrea broke out, which cost over 70,000 lives until the year 2000. Many people left the country. But there has been no real peace since then. Today Eritrea is a very poor country with about \$ 430 annual per capita income in 2011 (Germany: around \$ 44,000 per capita), but spends 20.9 % of its income (GDP) on weapons a year compared to 1.4 % in Germany. Eritrea is a one party state ruled by only one party with little freedom for its people.

### Did you know that ...

nearly five million refugees and asylum seekers from Eritrea live outside their country, most of them in South Sudan? Around 3,000 Eritrean refugees leave their country every month. The true migration figure is much higher as a lot of migrants leave illegally.

3. While watching the film answer these questions using 3-5 words.

1. What was life in Eritrea like for Hamid?

2. Why did many people try to leave their country?

3. Why was Hamid's father not allowed to leave Eritrea?

4. Where did Hamid and his mother arrive after a long journey?

5. How did Hamid feel at his new school?

6. Why was his mother crying when he came home one day?

7. How did Hamid react after his father's death?

8. What is Hamid's life like now?

4. Describe these two stills from the film in your own words.

