

## Abdulmajid, from Aleppo, Syria

### Now at War Child's Balanet el Hissa school in Northern Lebanon

The day Abdulmajid's school was destroyed by aerial bombardment; his parents decided it was time to leave Syria. Together with his ten brothers and sisters he came from Aleppo to Northern Lebanon.

Abdulmajid says he saw a lot of scary things: "It is war there. The night before we fled, a plane attacked our neighborhood. It was very dark. We were all hiding. The noise was very loud so I stayed awake. We all stayed flat on the floor for hours."

The next morning Abdulmajid and his family left the family home in a rush. "We didn't take anything. There was no time. On the road I saw houses in rubble and burned out cars. I saw massacres, people and children, killed without any reason."

He pauses, thinks and then whispers: "On the road I also saw a small body of a dead baby without a head. When we passed that, I had to close my eyes."

Once he arrived in Lebanon, his father built a tent from wood and plastic. With twelve family members he now lives there. "Things are good here. At least I don't hear bombs at night and I don't have to be afraid we will be killed. In Syria I was awake every night for at least two months because of all the scary sounds. Here I sleep better but I do have nightmares."

He explains he has the same nightmare almost every night: "I am in a car with beheaded people and I am the only one that is still alive," he stops and can't continue. "When I wake up crying my mum comes to comfort me."

At home Abdulmajid never talks about what he saw. "It is our secret."

Thanks to your support, War Child has three centres for children like Abdulmajid. He participates in War Child sessions three times a week and explains how this helps him to cope. "I really try to forget; we play and laugh and have fun. I am not used to this style of playing, I made a lot of new friends and by having fun I can forget."

He loves the games, classes and especially drawing: "Always when I draw, I draw a happy family. After school I give it to my mum and it makes her very happy."

He has hope for the future: "I miss my house, my school and my best friend. I hope to go back very soon. When I grow up I want to help to rebuild my country. I am sure there will be a lot of work for me there."

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