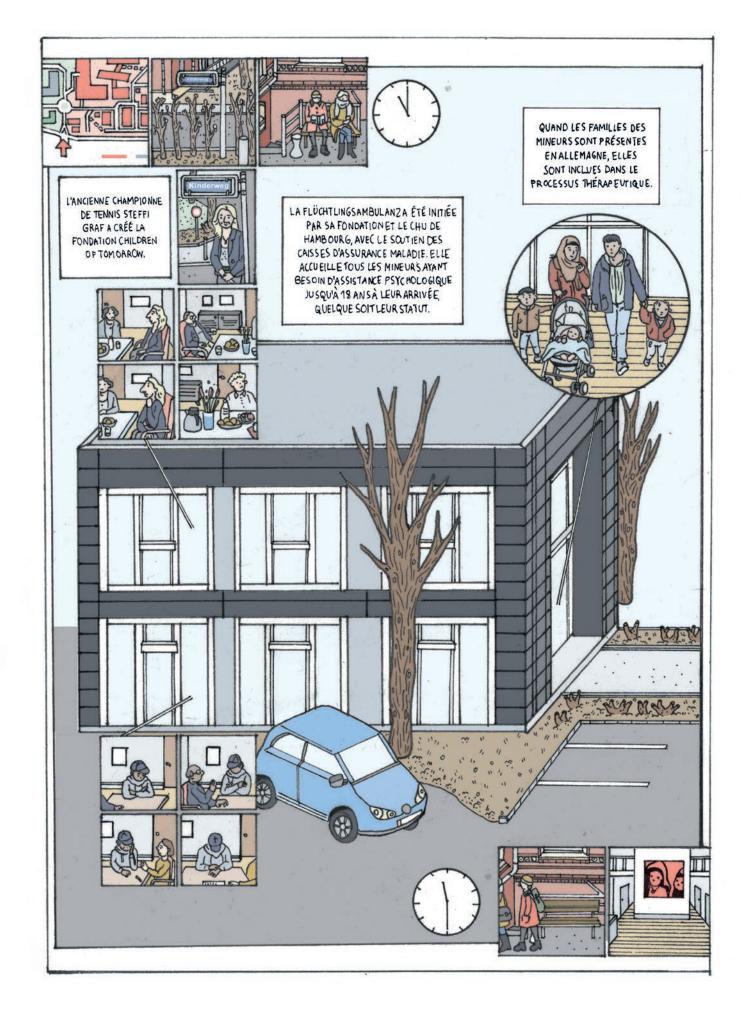
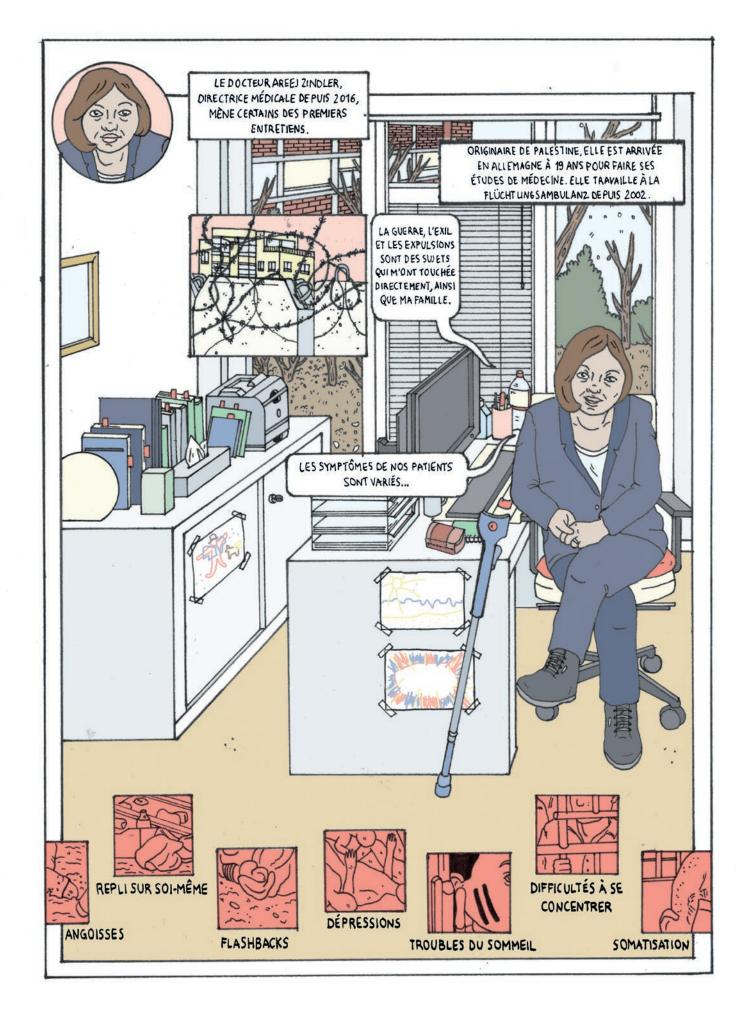
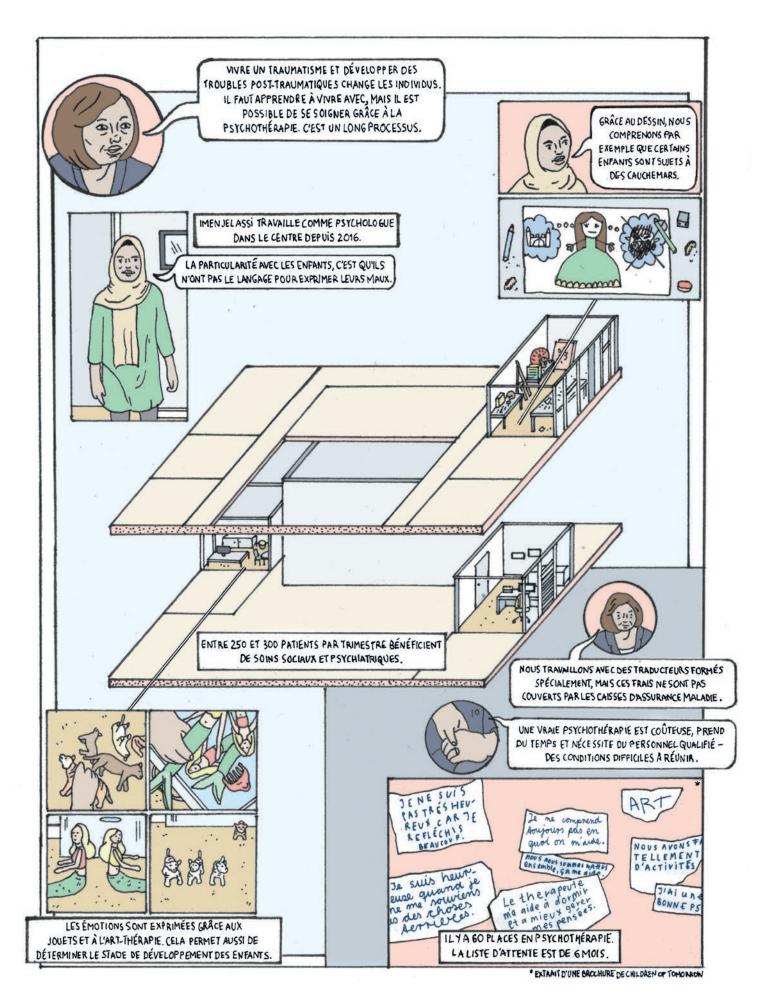


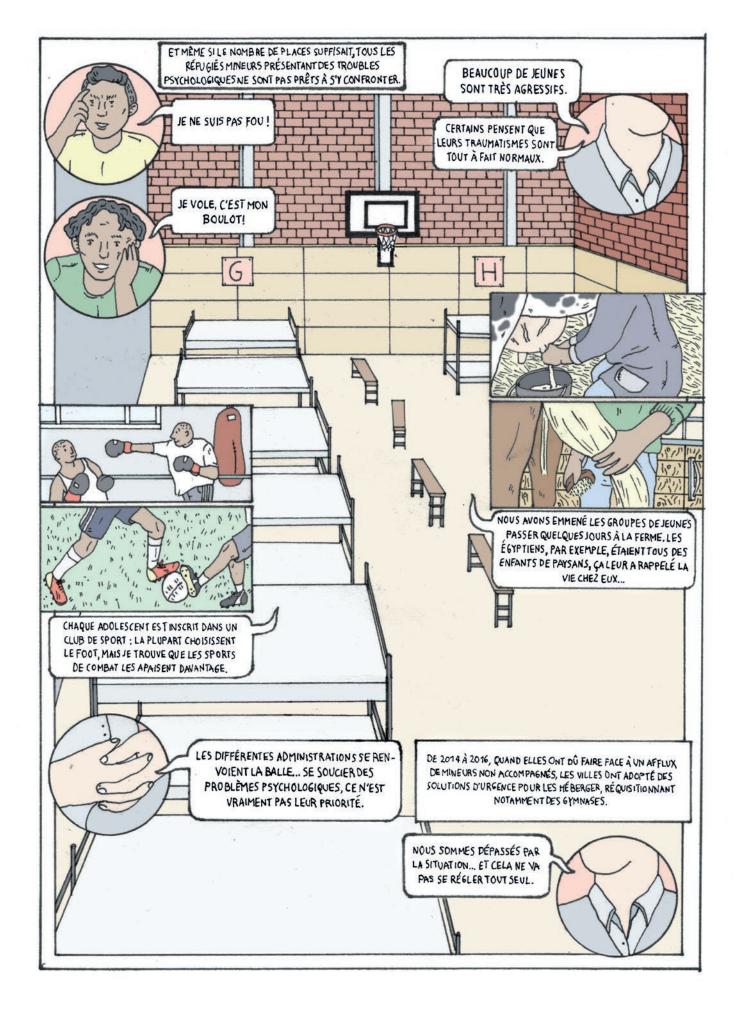
REFUGEE MINORS WITH MAJOR TRAUMAS • Mr. B. prefers to remain anonymous. The ex-social worker used to work with unaccompanied child refugees in Hamburg./"Minors who fled the war, accompanied or not, have witnessed the worst atrocities. Some were forced to watch decapitations ... these images will never leave them."/"Every war zone has its own defining features: for example, many young Syrians have seen bodies strewn about the streets ... it's different in Iraq, or Afghanistan."/"In Hamburg, there are also a lot of street kids from North Africa, who are part of gangs and have never known family life .../They move to Europe and steal what they can. Their traumas are not the same."/"Once a week, I would bring one of the kids to the refugee clinic." [psychological aid centre for refugee minors of University Clinic Hamburg]







"Experiencing trauma and developing a post-traumatic disorder changes an individual. You have to learn to live with it, but you can take care of it thanks to psychotherapy. It's a process."/Imen Jelassi has been a psychologist at the centre since 2016./"The thing with children is that they don't have the language to express their pain."/"By drawing sketches we can understand, for example, that some children suffer from night terrors."/ Every three months, between 250 and 300 patients benefit from social and psychiatric care/Toys and art therapy help emotions be expressed. This also helps determine a child's stage of development./"We work with specially trained translators, but these costs are not covered by public health insurance companies."/"A real psychotherapy is expensive, takes time and needs qualified staff—which is a difficult formula to get together here."/"I am not very happy because I think too much."/"I am happy when I don't remember terrible things."/"I still don't understand how this helps me."/"We fought together, it helped me."/"The therapist helped me to sleep and to better gather my thoughts."/"Art"/"We did so many activities."/"I have a good shrink!" [extracts from a brochure from Children of Tomorrow]/There are 60 places in psychotherapy. There is a six-month waiting list.



Even if there were enough places, not all of the refugee minors with psychological scars are ready to confront their issues./"I'm not crazy!"/"Lots of young people are very aggressive."/"Some think that their trauma is totally normal."/"I steal—it's my job to!"/"Every adolescent is registered at a sports club: the majority choose football, but I find that combat sports helps to calm them down more."/"We took groups of young people to spend a few days at a farm. The Egyptians, for example, were all the children of farmers, and it reminded them of home ..."/"Different administrations throw the ball back into each other's courts. It's not really their priority to fret about psychological problems."/Between 2014 and 2016, there was an influx of unaccompanied minors, so the towns came up with urgent solutions to house them, in particular by taking over sports halls./"We are overwhelmed by the situation ... and it's not going to solve itself."



## To Learn More ...

The outpatient clinic in Hamburg for refugees: https://www.uke.de/kliniken-institute/zentren/ambulanzzentrum-medizinisches-versorgungszentrum-(mvz)/fachbereiche/flüchtlingsambulanz/index.html

The website of the foundation "Children of Tomorrow": http://www.children-for-tomorrow.com

Translation: Nabeelah Shabbir

Alphabet des Ankommens • Alphabet of Arrival

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