

1

00:00:01,240 --> 00:00:08,940

(Interviewer)

Tedros Markos Tekle, self advocate and accessibility advocate.

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00:00:08,940 --> 00:00:22,600

(Tedros Markos Tekle)

I was born in Eritrea, it's a it's a small country in East Africa around along the coast line and I was educated there,

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00:00:22,600 --> 00:00:25,600

(Interviewer)

Map of Eritrea

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00:00:25,600 --> 00:00:27,600

(Tedros Markos Tekle)

and I was educated there.

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00:00:27,600 --> 00:00:31,230

of course, all while growing up in a Third World Country.

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00:00:31,230 --> 00:00:38,040

And as a person with disability, you know, I didn't have enough resources.

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00:00:38,040 --> 00:00:46,470

I have been blind since childhood. So all all the resources far for our education, we didn't we didn't have computers.

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00:00:46,470 --> 00:00:59,130

We didn't have anything. The only thing we used where text books that were transcribed into Braille by some braillists, our resources were limited.

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00:00:59,130 --> 00:01:04,430

We had to depend on our sighted friends.

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00:01:04,430 --> 00:01:18,630

So but anyway, after I joined the university, then my friends and I thought of launching a weekly 30 minute radio program about disability.

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00:01:18,630 --> 00:01:32,040

This was in April 2000. So we ran for a little over two years and there were some political issues.

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00:01:32,040 --> 00:01:36,960

Our radio program was banned. It was out of air.

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00:01:36,960 --> 00:01:45,540

And four months later, in September of 2003, I was the first blind journalist to join the national radio.

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00:01:45,540 --> 00:01:47,460

And I'm glad about that.

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00:01:47,460 --> 00:02:00,220

You know, I happened to be a trailblazer because as there there's someone who followed suit now, another blind journalist, which I am proud of.

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00:02:00,220 --> 00:02:11,190

But anyway, I worked for the radio for about five years or so, and then I switched to the only English newspaper in the country, Eritrea profile.

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00:02:11,190 --> 00:02:15,900

I also stayed there for almost five years.

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00:02:15,900 --> 00:02:21,510

All in all, I was there for about ten years.

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00:02:21,510 --> 00:02:34,880

(Interviewer)

A partnership with the University of Illinois at Chicago Institute on Disability and Human Development, and Illinois Department of Human Services IDHS.