Inkuru ya Agostino

Agostino's story

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Ikinyarwanda rw / English en

Nitwa Agostino, mfite imyaka 51. Nkora akazi ko gushyira abantu ibiryo nkoresheje igare. Mfite abakobwa babiri ariko tuganira gake cyane. Mama wabo ntitukibana kubera ko twatandukanye.

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My name is Agostino and I am 51 years old. My job is delivering food by bicycle. I have two daughters, but we hardly ever speak. Their mother and I no longer live together because we are divorced.

Mbana na mama kubera ko ntashobora kwishyura ubukode nyuma yo gutandukana n'umugore wanjye. Gukodesha inzu birahenda cyane muri uyu mujyi.

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I live with my mother, as I cannot afford to pay rent after the divorce. Rent is very expensive in this city.

Mu mezi make ashize, hari ikigo nakoragamo amasuku. Nasanaga ibyangiritse, ngaterura amakarito, ndetse nkanafasha undi wese ubikeneye. Umunsi umwe, icyo kigo cyaranyirukanye. Sinumvaga impamvu.

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A few months ago I was working as a janitor for a company. I repaired things that were broken, carried boxes, and helped when anyone needed it. One day the company fired me. I did not understand why.

Nabonye abantu benshi bashyiraga abantu ibiryo bakoresheje amagare. Kuko nzi gutwara igare nagiye gusaba akazi mu kigo gikomeye kizobereye mu kugemurira abantu ibicuruzwa. Bampa amayero ane kuri buri ncuro ngemuye. Nkorera amayero 40 ku munsi nagira amahirwe akaba 60. Hari n’abakiriya bampa tipu.

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I saw many people delivering food by bicycle. I can ride a bicycle, so I knocked on the door of a big delivery company. They offered me three euros for each delivery. I make 40€ per day, 60€ if I am very lucky and the customers tip me.

Iyo naruhutse ntibanyishyura, yewe n’iyo naba ndwaye, mbese nta burenganzira namba. Ntekereza ko ibyo bidakwiriye, gusa nkeneye akazi. Abenshi mu bandi bakozi dukorana ni abimukira baturutse mu bice bitandukanye by’isi.

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I get no paid holiday, no sick pay, hardly any rights at all. I do not think that is right, but I need the job. Most of the other employees are immigrants from all over the world.

Abenshi mu batwara ibintu, buri munsi bakomerekera mu mpanuka. Ubwo umwe mubatwara ibintu ufite imyaka 25 yagongwaga n’imodoka agahita apfa, ni bwo ubuyobozi bwatangiye kutwitaho. Birababaje kuba byarasabye ko apfa kugira ngo babone kutwitaho.

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Many delivery people are injured in accidents every day. Then, when a 25-year-old deliveryman was hit by a car and died, the authorities started noticing us. It is a shame he had to die before that happened.

Njye n’abandi dukora akazi kamwe bo mu bindi bigo, twafashe isomo rijyanye n’uburenganzira bw’abakozi twahawe n’ishyirahamwe ryo muri ako gace. Baduhaye ubujyanama ku by’amategeko ku buntu. Twarahatanye cyane kugira ngo tubone uburenganzira busesuye kandi duhabwe agaciro.

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Together with delivery people from other companies, I took a course on workers’ rights with a local union. They offered us legal advice free of charge. We struggled to get more recognition and rights.

Nyuma y’igihe kinini imvune zacu zatanze umusaruro. Ikigo kimwe gikomeye kigemurira abantu ibicuruzwa cyaciwe amande menshi ndetse gitegekwa gutanga akazi gahoraho. Ni ubwa mbere mu mateka y’isi yose byari bibayeho. Bisa nk’aho ibintu bitangiye kujya mu buryo.

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After a long time all our hard work paid off. One big delivery company had to pay a huge fine and to give workers permanent jobs. It was the first time that had happened anywhere in the whole world. It looks like things are starting to improve.

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