

Ilham's memory

My childhood was very simple, but every one of us has an unforgettable memory.

I still remember my first day in school, my teacher told me to introduce myself. I said Ilham K. from Laayoun but I spoke with a different accent because I came from Moroccan Sahara and there were two boys who laughed at me. I was ashamed and very angry, I kept my place without saying anything more.

When I went out of school, I found those two boys again waiting to bully me like repeating the words I had said in class because they found it funny. They also wanted to steal my school material. We fought and I hit them.

The following day the boys' parents went to the director's office to complain; they said that I was with other boys when we fought and even if I swore that I was alone, nobody believed me.

The director contacted my parents. I didn't say anything, but when my parents came, I told them that I defended myself because the boys wanted to steal my school material and because they had laughed at my accent. The unpleasant boys' father was very shocked when he saw my father: he had been my dad's classmate in military school. The boys finally apologized.

This fight with two boys gave me a push and self-confidence. The following week my dad took me to a Full-Contact club and so I started training at a very early age: I was six years old. After all this I got a lot of national titles and medals during my life.

