

Category: Freetheme

THIS SAND IS OURS

TRIPOLI

Since 4 April 2019, the General Khalifa Haftar who leads the Libyan National Army (LNA) has been conducting an offensive on the city of Tripoli.

In a vast no man's land, the front line winds around the international airport on 5 axes: Swani, Airport, Salal Al Din, Ain Zara, Wadi Rabi. There, fighters often very young, grouped in small brigades, have been trying for 8 months to resist the attacks of the strong man from the east. There are some tanks, rocket launchers, but for the most part they are armed only with Kalashnikovs in a state of disrepair. Faced with the bombing of Mirage planes and deadly drone attacks, they have no other choice to let the enemy gain ground which they eventually regain in often deadly terrestrial battles.

I wanted to meet these fighters. Some of them participated in the Revolution against Gaddafi, then went to fight Daesh in Sirte. These "old" fighters barely over thirty years old are accompanied in battle by their younger brothers, cousins or neighbours. The last battle, they hope, but this time for Tripoli.

I also wanted to meet a city trying to survive, its refugees who have lost everything. A town plagued by years of war but still resisting as the sound of the machine guns resonates each night in the Tripolitan homes.

According to a recent UN report, more than 284 civilians were killed, 363 injured. Over 128,000 people have fled their homes and more than 135,000 civilians remain in the front line zone. 270,000 people live in areas directly affected by the conflict.

Tripoli, December 2019

Karine Pierre

BIO

Self-taught photographer based in Paris. In recent years, I have focused particularly on social movements and politics. Since 2019, I have been working on long term subjects and more particularly on areas of armed conflict. What drives me? A face-to-face or vie à vie (vis-à-vis), a frontality without affront.

119 rue Saint Martin
75004 Paris – France
+33663697132
pics.stone@gmail.com