

Captions:

IQRIT: GOING BACK HOME

Photographic documentary by

Constance DECORDE

Israel – Palestine, 4/2014 - 3/2015



Photo 01 - Yossef is one of the youth who decided two years ago to come back and live in Iqrit to protest on the ground. "Golda Meir said that the 3rd Generation would have forgotten everything about The Nakba. We prove her wrong: It is not the case". He has the word *Iqrit* tattooed on his left forearm. Iqrit, Galilee, Israel. May 14, 2014



Photo 02 - The church of Iqrit and the cemetery are the only places that were not destroyed by the Israeli army on Christmas Eve in 1951. The Israeli army especially made the "mayor" come to watch the scene. Iqrit, Galilee, Israel. May 14, 2014.



Photo 03 - Members of the Iqrit community came to attend the mass given by Pope Francis, celebrated in Bethlehem. They hope that the Pope will act in their favor following the lunch he will have with Shadia and his family. Bethlehem, Occupied Palestinian Territories. May 25, 2014



Photo 04 - When the Israeli army entered Iqrit, the soldiers gave two options to the inhabitants: They were told to either go to Lebanon forever, or to Rami, a nearby village for only two weeks. But after they left Iqrit, it was not possible to circulate freely anymore and they were unable to return to Iqrit. Haïfa, Galilee, Israel. October 29, 2014



Photo 05 - Members of the Iqrit community are Christians, Greek Catholic. They often refer to their return to Iqrit in their prayers. Iqrit, Galilee, Israel. November 1st, 2014



Photo 06 - Georges' parents were living in Iqrit before being evicted in 1948. He is standing where their house stood before being destroyed by the Israeli army. Iqrit, Galilee, Israel. October 25, 2014



Photo 07 - Georges in front of his mother's tomb in Iqrit Cemetery. His father, Slimane, could not be buried here, as he died before the State of Israel authorized the people of Iqrit to bury their dead in the Cemetery. Georges retrieved one of his Father's bones from Rami Cemetery and laid it here in the family tomb. Iqrit, Galilee, Israel. November 1st, 2014



Photo 08 - Donia entering the church, accompanied by her Father. For 20 years, Iqrit people were not authorized by Israel to use the church. During this period, there was no wedding held within the community. Iqrit, Galilee, Israel. October 25, 2014



Photo 09 - Each wedding celebrated in The church of Iqrit is the opportunity to party and also to strengthen the ties within the community. Iqrit, Galilee, Israel. October 25, 2014



Photo 10 - Since the summer of 2012, some youngsters of the third generation decided to take turns to come live in Iqrit, despite Israel's ban. The young people of Iqrit are always trying to improve their conditions of living, such as by fixing the shelter they built, or by planting trees or repairing the stove. Iqrit, Galilee, Israel. November 1st, 2014



Photo 11 - Elias and other Iqrit youth also sleep on the roof of the church, weather permitting. Solar panels were installed in order to provide electric self-sufficiency. Iqrit, Galilee, Israel. October 25, 2014

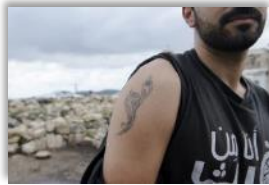


Photo 12 - Samer has Iqrit's church tattooed on his arm, like other Iqrit youth. The bond to their home village is indelible. "Iqrit, it's our history, our culture, all the stories we hear since we're born. It's our right to return to this place. We don't want only dead people going back to the cemetery". Iqrit, Galilee, Israel. November 1st, 2014



Photo 13 - Samer is one of the youth taking turns to live in Iqrit since the summer of 2012. He is studying IT at Haifa University. Iqrit, Galilee, Israel. March 13, 2015.



Photo 14 - Walaa does not come from Iqrit. She is Muslim and met some youth from Iqrit in Haifa. Since then, she comes from time to time here to support their cause and help them in their fight. Iqrit, Galilee, Israel. November 1st, 2014.



Photo 15 - Over weekends, there are many people at Iqrit: Youth make the best of it to sleep in the village. Iqrit, Galilee, Israel. March 14, 2015.



Photo 16 - Haneen, Aleen and Lana are speaking in the room of the shelter built against the church's wall. The girls, of about 15 years of age, also come during the weekends to Iqrit; they clean, rearrange the shelter, only inhabited by boys during the week. Iqrit, Galilee, Israel. November 1st, 2014



Photo 17 - Nicole, 15, is the daughter of Georges and Shadia. When people ask her where she comes from, she answers "Iqrit". In her room, all over the walls, are pictures of Iqrit. She goes there every weekend to sleep over one or two nights, when she does not have exams at school. Kfar Yasif, Galilee, Israel. October 18, 2014.



Photo 18 - The association of the Iqrit Community obtained funds for a pottery workshop for the Iqrit youth to create objects and sell them during the summer camps. Here Haytham, George's nephew, is making a cup. Kfar Yasif, Israel. March 13, 2015



Photo 19 - Iqrit is not connected to the general electrical system, as the village does not exist according to the State of Israel. The electricity is provided from a generator. There are often power cuts, but the youth of Iqrit are used to it. Here, Mayssa and Aleen are looking at their phone. Iqrit, Israel. March 14, 2015



Photo 20 - The remains of the Iqrit village are located in the middle of fields. There are Kibbutzim in the surrounding area where the inhabitants bring their cattle to graze, but the Iqrit community does not hold the property acts. Iqrit, Galilee, Israel. March 14, 2015.