

Captions :

WHAT LIVES!

4 photographic series by
Olivier PASQUIERS

France - 1996 / 2008

1 - The forgotten of the war:

Extract from the book « Oubliés de guerre », Créaphis editions, 2005. Texts from Michel Séonnet. These Moroccan War veterans of the French army live in a SONACOTRA House in Beauvais.



Mohamed Nacir



Hammou Boughamin



Akli Dahbi



Mehdi Sadik



Ali Hallabou

2 - First pay

From the series First Pay.

House of Solidarity Gennevilliers, 2008. Abbé Pierre Foundation for the housing of the disadvantaged (discriminated).



Testimonial: I was born in Morocco. At 19, I was preparing for a degree in philosophy and sociology at University Mohammed V in Casablanca; I found a place as a delivery driver, a courier, as a postman instead. I was instructed to go and carry the mail for a company that sold auto parts, the company Doukhala. I did that for a year. I earned eight hundred dirhams per month. It was money in addition to the scholarship which I was entitled to, my father being a veteran of the French army who fought for the liberation of France. I got my Bachelor's degree but I could not get job as a teacher ... Then I got into the company of my brother-in-law, "King Ascenseur", we installed and repaired elevators. I worked there for 10 years until the death of my father. After I left, I wanted to do something more related to my studies, to be with other people more open, more educated. I came to France in 2002, but it's difficult. Here I have nothing. Of the eight hundred dirhams of my first pay I gave two hundred to my little sister, Nadia. (Youssef).



Patrick



Malika



Jean-Marc



Jean

3 - Pain of exile

From the series "Pains of exile"

COMEDE Association, Committee on Medical Assistance to exiled people, Kremlin-Bicetre Hospital, 1996-1998. Because they spoke, because they are of a different culture than the one in power, women, men are forced to flee their country. They rarely benefit from the Geneva Convention (1951), yet it is anterior to all other treaties. By adding the fears, the testimonies of other refugees to these pictures, I want to show the difficulty of living in the daily distress of being deported.

Testimony: Mr. H. is Mauritanian, Fulani and Muslim. He was born in 1949 in the village of Nere Oualo. He is married with 5 children. His deceased parents were farmers and ranchers. He is the sixth child of a family of four boys and three girls. From the age 6 to 17 years old, he first attended secular schools, then he was an intern in the Keïdi college. At 18 he chose a career in the army and followed a program at the national training center. In April 1968, he decided to join the navy. He sailed as quartermaster on the ship "The Saluki". In 1970, he had an eight-month internship in Brest, at the maneuvering and navigation school. Admitted in 1984 to the certificate of second lieutenant, he was sent to the desert, as a sport officer... He was then 35 years old. From late 1985, his political troubles began, he was successively accused of complicity with Captain Diop (arrested), then with Captain Kebe (arrested) for delivery of "military secrets" and participation in the document named "Manifesto of the Oppressed Negro-Mauritanian". He was constantly under surveillance and denied permission. Arrested in October 22, 1987, Mr. H. was enclosed in three places of detention until March 8, 1991: First to Jreïda then deported to Oualata, on December 7, 1987, and transferred to Aioun, January 31, 1989. At Jreïda he was fed with rice mixed with sand, he suffered abuse, interrogations and torture (undressed, hands and feet tied, he was suspended from a rod of iron, suddenly dropped on the ground until loss of consciousness). The trial took place in November 1987. Three officers were sentenced to death; Mr. H. was condemned to hard labor for 5 years. At Oualata he was chained, subjected to hard labor, ill-nourished (40 patients ill with beriberi), tortured all night long. After a violent kick in the left eye he became blind from that eye. Four of his comrades died. He was transferred to Aioun, thanks to Amnesty International. Since December 1987, he had not seen his wife. She received a permission to visit in March 1989. She has suffered multiple harassments: convened by the police, searched in her home, marginalized in her work ... and deported with her children in Senegal in April 1989. One of her nieces was killed in November 1989 in Ouallo Nere; a nephew was expelled in Senegal (he is now in France where he benefits of the right of asylum). Mr. H. was released from prison on March 8, 1991 and, continually under surveillance, he went to visit his parents. On August 10, 1991, Mr. H. illegally crossed the river and rejoined his family in Senegal. In 1994 he returned to Mauritania. Upon his arrival he was detained by police, taken to the police office and questioned about his activities in Senegal. A few days later he returned to Dakar ... On 20 September 1994, he boarded a trawler for Vigo. From there he went to Barcelona and took the train to Paris on October 12, 1994. In Paris, he stays in a solidarity home. During the day he goes to friends in Créteil. He awaits the decision of OFPRA.



M. K, libérien



M. P, sri-lankais



M. K, libérien



M. M, algérien



M. et Mme T,
sri-lankais

4- We ... our body:

Extract from the series "We... our body".

House of Solidarity Gennevilliers, 2002

These body photographs were carried out as part of a cultural project conducted by the House of Solidarity in Gennevilliers. They are accompanied by texts written in a writing workshop

Excerpt from the text: "I find myself in front of a mirror every day, but I do not see my face because my face is at the bottom of my heart. Either I do not want to see my face, or I have many faces. It is this life that makes me like this, through time I do not have a face. But the others find that I have a face. They want to make me a face that they like, but do I like this face? I can only find my face in my dreams when I walk away from my body. You, do you see my face? "(Anonymous)



These portraits are anonymous