

Inside the Battle of Algiers

Memoir of a Woman Freedom Fighter

Zohra Drif

Foreword by Lakhdar Brahimi • Translated by Andrew Farrand

This gripping insider's account chronicles how and why a young woman in 1950s Algiers joined the armed wing of Algeria's national liberation movement to combat her country's French occupiers. When the movement's leaders turned to Drif and her female colleagues to conduct attacks in retaliation for French aggression against the local population, they leapt at the chance. Their actions were later portrayed in Gillo Pontecorvo's famed film *The Battle of Algiers*. When first published in French in 2013, this intimate memoir was met with great acclaim and no small amount of controversy. It is essential reading for anyone seeking to understand not only the anticolonial struggles of the 20th century and their relevance today, but also the specific challenges that women often confronted (and overcame) in those movements.

ABOUT THE CONTRIBUTORS

In the 1950s, **Zohra Drif** was a core member of the armed wing of Algeria's national liberation movement, the FLN. She later practiced criminal law and from 2001 to 2016 she served as a senator in Algeria's Council of the Nation.

Lakhdar Brahimi is a distinguished Algerian diplomat who has served as the UN's Special Representative in Haiti, South Africa, Afghanistan, Iraq, and Syria. In the 1950s, he was one of the leaders of the FLN.

Andrew G. Farrand, a native of Baltimore, MD, has worked in Algeria since 2013 as a writer, photographer, and freelance translator.

ACCOLADES

"Stunning... *Inside the Battle of Algiers* has everything: it is the autobiography of the first part of the life of a remarkable woman; an insight into vital historical events; a first-hand view on the ethics of revolutionary violence; and a page-turning true adventure story."

—James North, *Mondoweiss*

"...stands with texts like George Jackson's *Soledad Brother* and Frederick Douglass' *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass* in terms of its honesty and desire for justice. ...a study of the tightrope women in movements like Algeria's Frente Liberacion Nacional (FLN) must sometimes walk. ...an emotionally riveting historical adventure that is both exhilarating and breathtaking.... Like Gillo Pontecorvo's masterpiece film *The Battle of Algiers*, Drif's memoir is a powerful and unforgettable work."

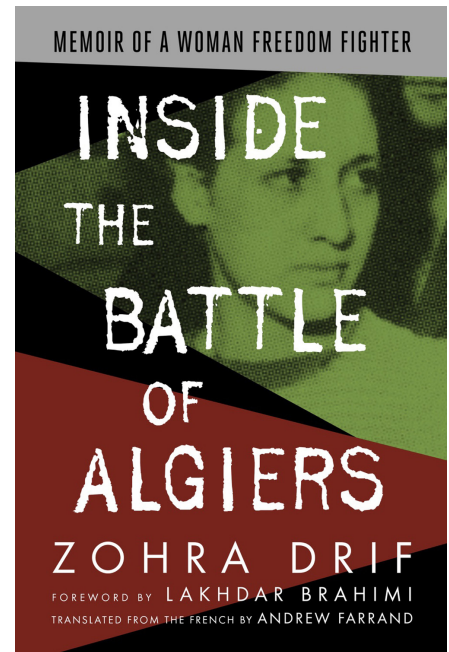
—Ron Jacobs, *Counterpunch*

"Who is Zohra Drif? An Algerian heroine who fought the French, then spent five years in their prisons, she has not been recognized like her two co-fighters Djamila Bouhired and Djamila Boupacha. Until now. With the publication of her autobiography, *Inside the Battle of Algiers*, we have a narrative that is engrossing and also provides a new, fresh look at a critical moment in Algerian history. One of the critical but occluded players in the Battle of Algiers, she will now be known to the world through her own eloquent words. Essential reading."

—miriam cooke, author of *Dancing in Damascus: Creativity, Resilience and the Syrian Revolution*

"Zohra Drif, a living legend of the Algerian freedom movement, was a mujahida for a country then held in vicious bondage by French colonialism. Here she tells the story of her journey to help free her country, a story which becomes of course the story of the Algerian war of independence. This is one of the most engaging memoirs to come out of the period of decolonization."

—Vijay Prashad, author of *The Darker Nations: A People's History of the Third World*



SUBJECT CATEGORY

History: North Africa / Women's Studies

PRICE

\$29.95

ISBN

9781682570753

PAGE COUNT

320

SIZE

6 x 9

FORMAT

Paperback

PUBLICATION DATE

09/01/2017

US DISTRIBUTION

Publishers Group West

1-866-400-5351

www.pgw.com • ips@ingramcontent.com

CANADA DISTRIBUTION

Publishers Group Canada

1-800-663-5714

customerservice@raincoast.com

EUROPE DISTRIBUTION

IPS_International.Orders@ingramcontent.com

UK DISTRIBUTION

Turnaround Publisher Services Ltd

020-8829-3000 • orders@turnaround-uk.com

PM PRESS

P.O. Box 23912 • Oakland, CA 94623

www.pmpress.org • info@pmpress.org

510-703-0327

PM

PM Press is an independent, radical publisher of critically necessary books for our tumultuous times. Our aim is to deliver bold political ideas and vital stories to all walks of life and arm the dreamers to demand the impossible. Founded in 2007 by a small group of people with decades of publishing, media, and organizing experience. We're old enough to know what we're doing and young enough to know what's at stake.