



ALGERIA

# Tibhirine Monastery

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TIBHIRINE MONASTERY: THE OLD  
COLONIAL BUILDING ON THE RIGHT,  
AND THE NEW ONE ON THE LEFT



THE NIGHT BETWEEN 26<sup>TH</sup> AND 27<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 1996, SEVEN TRAPPIST MONKS BELONGING TO THE NOTRE DAME DE L'ATLAS MONASTERY IN TIBHIRINE, ALGERIA, WERE KIDNAPPED BY TERRORISTS. THEIR HEADS WERE FOUND TWO MONTHS LATER NEAR THE TOWN OF MEDEA. TWENTY YEARS LATER, DESPITE THE INVESTIGATIONS, THOUSANDS OF ARTICLES AND BOOKS - AND EVEN A MOVIE CALLED "DES HOMMES ET DES DIEUX", GRAND JURY PRIZE AT CANNES - THE MYSTERY ABOUT THEIR ABDUCTION AND MURDER HAS NEVER BEEN SOLVED.

TODAY THE TIBHIRINE MONASTERY STILL EXISTS. NOT ONLY IN THE MEMORY OF THE LAST SURVIVOR, BROTHER JEAN PIERRE SCHUMACHER, WHO NOW LIVES IN MOROCCO (THE OTHER, BROTHER AMÉDÉE, DIED SEVEN YEARS AGO), BUT ALSO IN THE ALGERIAN MONASTERY ITSELF, WHERE A FRENCH PRIEST IN THE LAST FIFTEEN YEARS HAVE BEEN KEEPING ALIVE THE LINK WITH THE MUSLIM POPULATION OF THE AREA AND THE MONASTERY. RECENTLY NEW SAFETY PROBLEMS MAKE HIS PRESENCE QUITE DIFFICULT, BUT FATHER JEAN MARIE LASSAUSSE INSISTS ON CULTIVATING THE LAND TOGETHER WITH THE SAME PEOPLE WHO WORKED WITH THE MONKS AT THAT TIME. HE AND JEAN PIERRE ARE THE LAST BITS OF MEMORIES, A WEAK LEGACY BETWEEN THESE PLACES AND THE MYSTERIOUS TRAGEDY OCCURRED 20 YEARS AGO. ONE LAST CHANCE OF DIALOGUE WITH THE MUSLIM WORLD ON THOSE FORGOTTEN HILLS, THROUGH THE SIMPLE TOOLS OF WORK AND PRAYER.

MOROCCO, MIDELT. A CLOSE-UP OF  
FATHER JEAN PIERRE SCHUMACHER (THE  
LAST SURVIVOR OF TIBHIRINE)



TIBHIRINE MONASTERY: THE  
CHAPEL OF THE OLD ENGLISH  
COLONIST WHO OWNED THE LAND  
AND THE FIRST BUILDING



FATHER JEAN MARIE LASSAUSSE OF MISSION  
DE FRANCE, AN AGRICULTURAL ENGINEER WHO  
HAS BEEN IN CHARGE OF THE MONASTERY'S  
AGRICULTURE FOR THE PAST 10 YEARS



THE SIDE OF THE MONASTERY WHERE  
THE AGRICULTURAL AND STABLE  
FACILITIES ARE LOCATED



MOROCCO, MIDELT. FATHER JEAN PIERRE  
SCHUMACHER (THE LAST SURVIVOR OF  
TIBHIRINE) GETS READY FOR THE SUNDAY  
CELEBRATION IN THE MONASTERY OF NOTRE  
DAME DE L'ATLAS IN MIDELT



THE MONASTERY BELLS SEEN  
FROM THE CLOISTER



SISTER AGNÈS OF SŒURS DE BETHLEEM, WHO  
LOOKS AFTER THE RUNNING OF THE MONASTERY  
AND YOUSEF, ONE OF THE ALGERIAN WORKERS  
WHO WAS PRESENT DURING THE KIDNAPPING



TIBHIRINE MONASTERY, FOUNDED  
BY THE TRAPPIST MONKS IN  
THE ATLAS MOUNTAINS NOT FAR  
FROM THE CITY OF MEDEA





MOROCCO, MIDELT. FATHER JEAN  
PIERRE SCHUMACHER (THE LAST  
SURVIVOR OF TIBHIRINE) IN THE  
SCRIPTORIUM OF THE MONASTERY OF  
NOTRE DAME DE L'ATLAS IN MIDELT



THE STAIRS USED BY THE  
TERRORISTS TO ENTER THE  
MONASTERY ON THE 26TH  
MARCH, 1996, IN ORDER  
TO KIDNAP THE MONKS

MOROCCO, MIDELT. FATHER  
JEAN PIERRE SCHUMACHER (THE  
LAST SURVIVOR OF TIBHIRINE)  
GETS READY FOR THE SUNDAY  
CELEBRATION IN THE MONASTERY OF  
NOTRE DAME DE L'ATLAS IN MIDELT



MOROCCO, MIDELT. FATHER JEAN PIERRE  
SCHUMACHER (THE LAST SURVIVOR OF  
TIBHIRINE) IN THE REFECTORY OF THE  
MONASTERY OF NOTRE DAME DE L'ATLAS  
IN MIDELT. IN THE BACKGROUND, A  
PORTRAIT OF CHARLES DE FOUCAULT



THE MONASTERY CEMETERY,  
WITH THE TOMBS OF  
THE 7 KIDNAPPED AND  
ASSASSINATED MONKS



TIBHIRINE



MOROCCO, MIDELE. FATHER JEAN PIERRE SCHUMACHER (THE LAST SURVIVOR OF TIBHIRINE) IN THE ROOM THAT'S DEDICATED TO THE MARTYRS OF TIBHIRINE, IN THE MONASTERY OF NOTRE DAME DE L'ATLAS IN MIDELE



VIEW OVER THE MONASTERY  
ENTRANCE SEEN FROM ONE  
OF THE MONKS' ROOMS



MASS IN THE MONASTERY'S  
TINY CHAPEL

THE DATE OF THE MONASTERY'S  
FOUNDATION (8TH MARCH, 1938)  
AND THE TOMB OF P. AUBIN,  
PORTIER DU MONASTÈRE



MOROCCO, MIDELT. FATHER JEAN PIERRE SCHUMACHER  
(THE LAST SURVIVOR OF TIBHIRINE) ENTERS THE  
CHAPEL THAT IS DEDICATED TO PEYRIGUÈRE, PETIT  
FRÈRE DE CHARLES DE FOUCAULT, WHO DEVOTED HIS  
LIFE TO THE PEOPLE OF EL HARRACH, IN THE  
MONASTERY OF NOTRE DAME DE L'ATLAS IN MIDELT





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