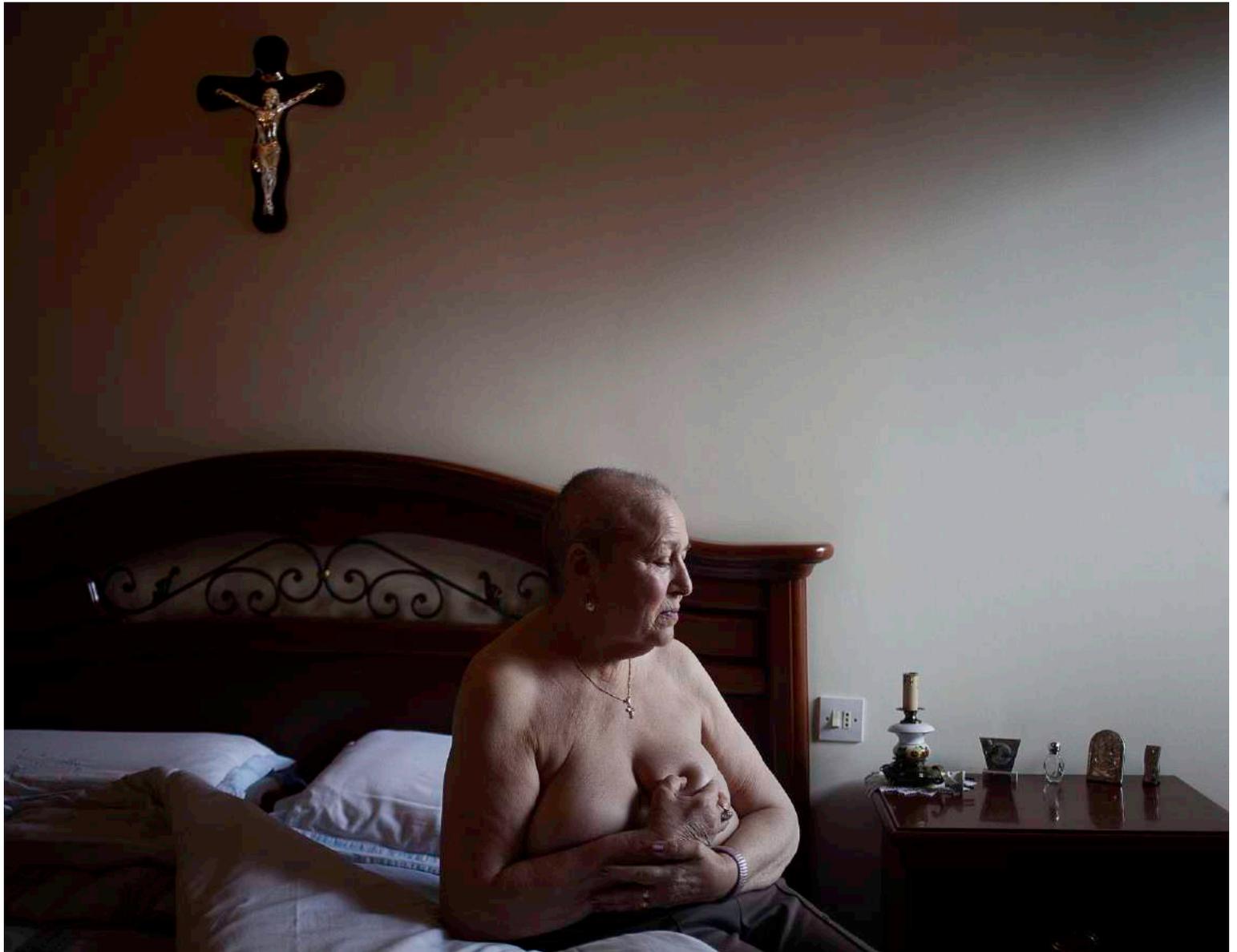




In Naples you pass a votive of the Madonna on almost every block, every building, above every bed. She is meant to protect, to ward off evil and watch over. I happened upon this Madonna watching over a petrol company outside of Milan. I wonder why the Madonna was not there to protect the people of Campania when the Camorra came to the North with trucks to haul the dregs of countless barrels of toxic waste down to Campania.



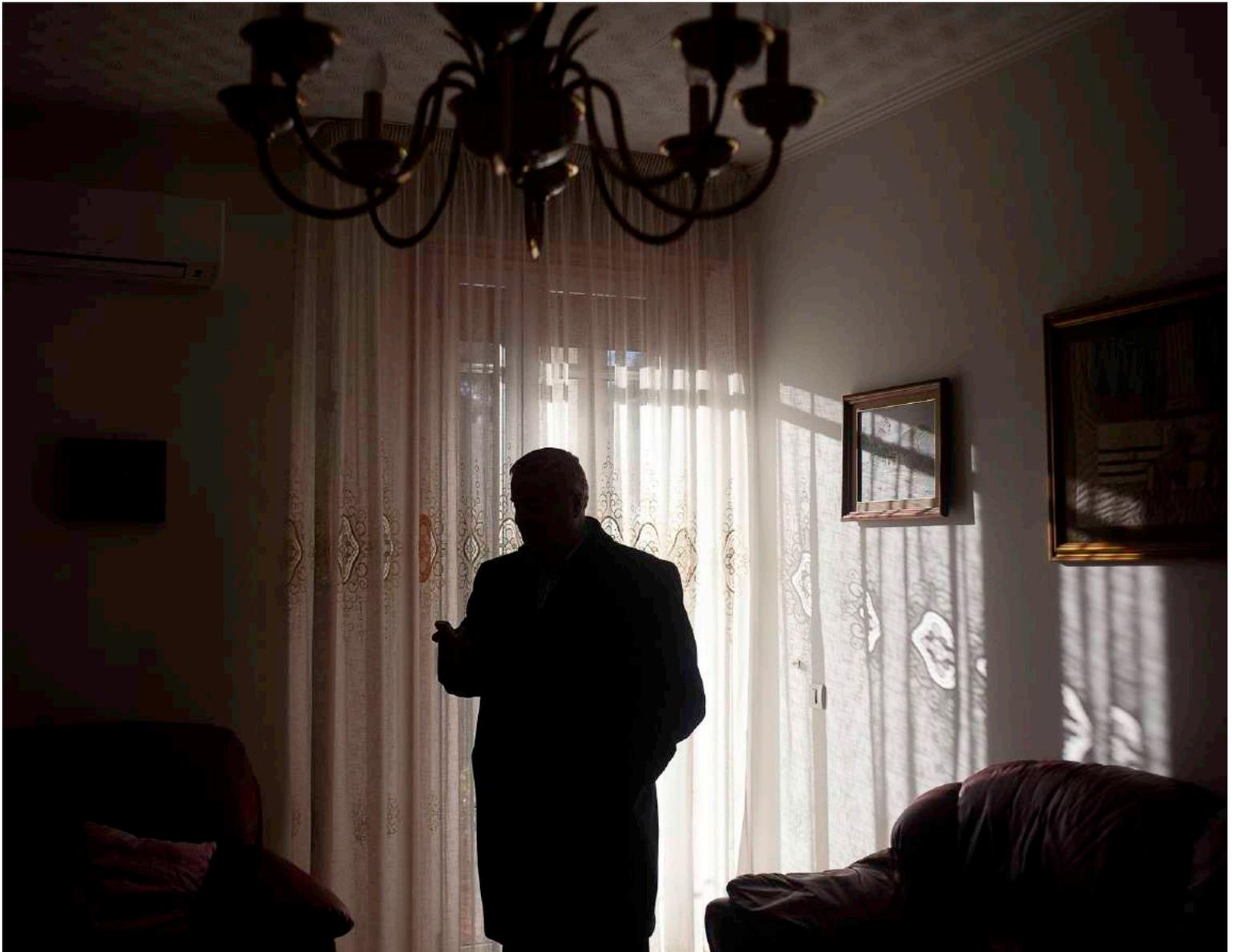
Marigliano, Naples, Italy-January 15, 2014: Maria Formisano, 69 clutches her breast where she recently underwent a lumpectomy for stage 4 breast cancer that spread to her brain. Although originally given only 15 days to live she underwent radiation and chemotherapy for 8 months and is now awaiting a scan in less than a months time that will show whether or not she is cancer free. Maria and her husband, originally from Napoli moved to Marigliano in Naples Province for what they thought would be a better life for them and their children. They never imagined that the tap water they drank and the produce they ate for years would turn out to be filled with toxins. Years of systematic toxic waste dumping in the Northern Naples Province and Southern Caserta region by the Naples mafia known as the Camorra has reached a crisis point in recent years as toxic waste of various types including chemicals, heavy metals, petroleum, etc. are continually and illegal buried under ground, burned in large quantities, hidden in conventional house-hold trash dumps and in some cases even thought to be buried in the foundation of building structures. The region in the State of Campania known as the "Triangle of Death," or "The Land of Fires," has elevated levels of cancer and congenital malformations. Although scientific studies by the Italian National Research Council, as well as the American Military and the World Health Organization, the Italian Government remains indifferent on the situation.



There were plenty of fireworks although I don't see what there is to celebrate. Almost every family I meet has someone who is sick in their home. Here there is no dolce vita, here it's depressed...you can feel it in the air, it's suffocating, a sentiment of which you want to escape. I want to escape, run back to Rome as fast as I can, go back home, forget all about what I've seen, this is not my problem, or is it? I live in this country, I came here for the quality of life that I always dreamed to have. Here in Marigliano there is no quality of life, there is just survival. And so I am compelled to stay.



Marigliano, Naples, Italy-January 9, 2014: An abandoned sofa lies amidst farmland along the Regi Lagni Canals of Marigliano in the province of Naples. The canals, which lead from inland into the ocean and weave through Naples province have been subject to years of toxic waste dumping. Years of systematic toxic waste dumping in the Northern Naples Province and Southern Caserta region by the Naples mafia known as the Camorra has reached a crisis point in recent years as toxic waste of various types including chemicals, heavy metals, petroleum, etc. are continually and illegally buried underground, burned in large quantities, hidden in conventional household trash dumps and in some cases even thought to be buried in the foundation of building structures. The region in the State of Campania known as the "Triangle of Death," or "The Land of Fires," has elevated levels of cancer and congenital malformations. Although scientific studies by the Italian National Research Council, as well as the American Military and the World Health Organization, the Italian Government remains indifferent on the situation.



Marigliano, Naples, Italy-January 15, 2014: Mimo Granata waits in his living room for his wife, Maria to go to the hospital. Maria recently underwent a lumpectomy for stage 4 breast cancer that spread to her brain. Although originally given only 15 days to live she underwent radiation and chemotherapy for 8 months and is now awaiting a scan in less than a months time that will show whether or not she is cancer free. Maria and Mimo, originally from Napoli moved to Marigliano in Naples Province for what they thought would be a better life for them and their children. They never imagined that the tap water they drank and the produce they ate for years would turn out to be filled with toxins. Years of systematic toxic waste dumping in the Northern Naples Province and Southern Caserta region by the Naples mafia known as the Camorra has reached a crisis point in recent years as toxic waste of various types including chemicals, heavy metals, petroleum, etc. are continually and illegal buried under ground, burned in large quantities, hidden in conventional house-hold trash dumps and in some cases even thought to be buried in the foundation of building structures. The region in the State of Campania known as the "Triangle of Death," or "The Land of Fires," has elevated levels of cancer and congenital malformations. Although scientific studies by the Italian National Research Council, as well as the American Military and the World Health Organization, the Italian Government remains indifferent on the situation.



I've been told the reason they burn toxic trash during the day along the canal is that the sun combusts the chemicals and the trash burns faster and more completely. Here the trash burns day and night, non-organic smells permeate the air. Firemen come and go, never really knowing what they are snuffing out.



Gennaro was preparing Antonella's dinner. I watched with which care he stirred the mixture of meat and vegetables, cooling it with occasional blows and tasting it to make sure it was balanced. Ever since her tongue was removed Antonella eats through a tube in her stomach, preferring not to eat chicken, even though she can no longer taste, it's something she never liked.



Qualiano, Naples, Italy-January 14, 2014: The broccoli farm of Francesco, a farmer who prefers to be referred only by his first name which he has had to barricade against toxic waste dumpers. Francesco has had to lower his produce prices because of toxic waste dumping contamination harming the region's name. Years of systematic toxic waste dumping in the Northern Naples Province and Southern Caserta region by the Naples mafia known as the Camorra has reached a crisis point in recent years as toxic waste of various types including chemicals, heavy metals, petroleum, etc. are continually and illegally buried underground, burned in large quantities, hidden in conventional household trash dumps and in some cases even thought to be buried in the foundation of building structures. The region in the State of Campania known as the "Triangle of Death," or "The Land of Fires," has elevated levels of cancer and congenital malformations. Although scientific studies by the Italian National Research Council, as well as the American Military and the World Health Organization, the Italian Government remains indifferent on the situation.



I started photographing Antonella and her family on the day of her sister Marianna's wedding. Smiles were strained, Antonella was too sick to come to the ceremony and barely able to make it to the reception. A day meant for joy and new beginnings was weighed down with heavy hearts.



The bird was lying dead on the grough when I arrived to Antonella's house, not squished but shot, by a gun, a pistol. The deep red blood stain stood out in the midday light. I wondered if it was a young camorra drug dealer or just a frustrated kid....here it's always hard to tell the reality, guns come easy and life loses it's value. I took it as an omen for what was to come...a death.



Marigliano, Naples, Italy-January 15, 2014: Vasca San Sossio, a known waste dumping site in Marigliano, considered one of the points in the "Triangle of Death." Years of systematic toxic waste dumping in the Northern Naples Province and Southern Caserta region by the Naples mafia known as the Camorra has reached a crisis point in recent years as toxic waste of various types including chemicals, heavy metals, petroleum, etc. are continually and illegal buried under ground, burned in large quantities, hidden in conventional house-hold trash dumps and in some cases even thought to be buried in the foundation of building structures. The region in the State of Campania known as the "Triangle of Death," or "The Land of Fires," has elevated levels of cancer and congenital malformations. Although scientific studies by the Italian National Research Council, as well as the American Military and the World Health Organization, the Italian Government remains indifferent on the situation.

Nadia Shira Cohen for the New York Times



Terzigno, Italy-October, 2010: Toxic waste is often hidden within discarded clothing or fabric, sometimes burned or otherwise left intertwined with the surrounding nature of deserted locations in the Campania region like this one in Terzigno where residents staged protests and burned incoming garbage trucks controlled by the Camorra. Terzigno is home to common waste dump although residents claim that all types of waste is discarded within the gaping hole that forms the dump, including toxic chemical waste.



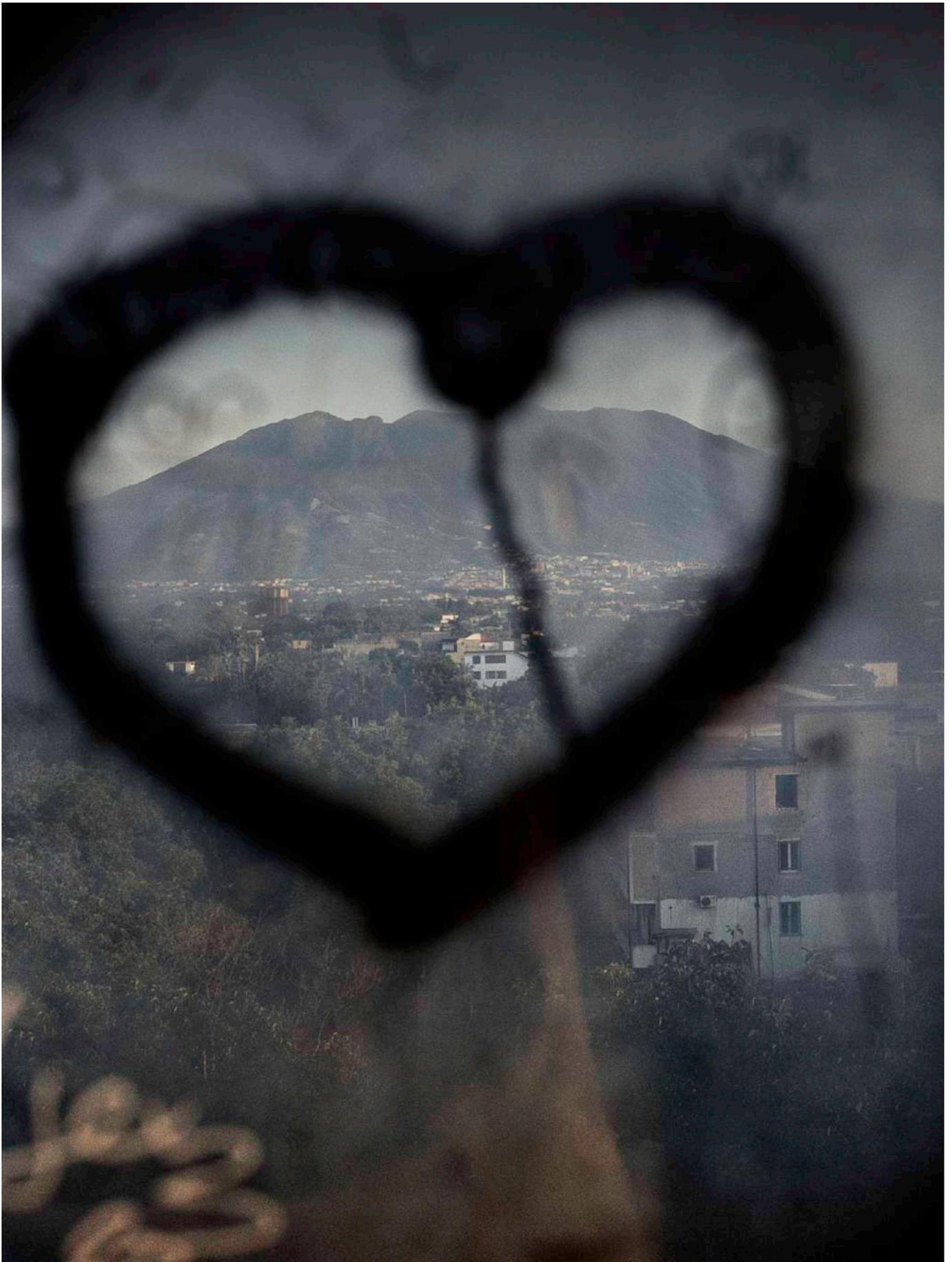
They had smirks on their faces that day that Berlusconi flew in on his helicopter, dressed to the nines as if he was attending a gala. The police were there to ensure the protesters did not reach the incinerator or cause any uncomfortable scene for the television cameras. Their small screams silenced, halted with guns and bats. Where is the democracy, the exercise of free speech.



Caserta, Italy-January 10, 2014: Sea gulls circle above La Reggia, a giant trash dump known for years of abusive waste dumping practices. Years of systematic toxic waste dumping in the Northern Naples Province and Southern Caserta region by the Naples mafia known as the Camorra has reached a crisis point in recent years as toxic waste of various types including chemicals, heavy metals, petroleum, etc. are continually and illegal buried under ground, burned in large quantities, hidden in conventional house-hold trash dumps and in some cases even thought to be buried in the foundation of building structures. The region in the State of Campania known as the "Triangle of Death," or "The Land of Fires," has elevated levels of cancer and congenital malformations. Although scientific studies by the Italian National Research Council, as well as the American Military and the World Health Organization, the Italian Government remains indifferent on the situation.



There were 6 of them bridled to perfection, purple ear coverings and black feather headpieces. They hauled a traditional Napolitan carriage, flanked with 2 internal statues of Padre Pio and a coffin...their faces indifferent at the task that was at hand.



“We are ruined here”. Every single home I enter, there has been someone who has recited to me this exact sentence, almost like a mantra and in the case of Katia, as in every other case there is a sense of resignation, a tone within the voice, an acceptance of circumstance. The once beautiful lands of the Roman Empire and conquest of many others is now reduced to a ragged land seething with poison.



Marigliano, Italy-June, 2009: I was never able to capture the eyes of Andrea. I watched his mother close them and put him to rest after he died. Later she showed me 2 pictures on her cell phone of Andrea, one she had taken when he was well and the other a few days before he died. His eyes say it all, the fear, the resignation. He knew he was going to die. Afraid to smile because he knew.



The priest talked about sacrifice, that Andrea needed to be sacrificed upon the cross as Jesus was...the only thing Andrea was sacrificed for is dirty money and a heap of toxic trash that to this day lies covered in a plastic tarp alongside the family's previous home.



I watch her peacefully sleeping with a bit of dread for when she will wake up. She will wonder where she is and how she got there, what day it is, what time it is...and then she will remember that Andrea is dead and that they are coming to put him in the coffin at 9:30.



Marigliano, Naples, Italy-January, 2014: A farmer burns a fire in his broccoli field in a farm near a known toxic waste dump site known as "Masseria Verduzio," in Marigliano considered one of the points in the "Triangle of Death."



The funeral all happened so fast. Before I knew it Lina and Andrea's Aunt were fainting and people were lunging at that coffin. I was stunned and deeply saddened, I couldn't photograph. Then when everyone had dispersed along came Amodio, Andrea's best friend, to share in a last smoke together.



Today Lina can't believe her own reality, it's too much to bare, almost surreal, like she is out of her own body looking down upon herself. She is tired, tired of seeing Andrea's face without life, afraid to smile, afraid to breath.



Carditello, Caserta, Italy-January 10, 2014: Sheep graze on trees outside of Palazzo Reale di Carditello, a cultural Italian landmark in the heart of Caserta and just a few miles from a huge land fill, known for abusive waste dumping practices. Studies have shown high levels of toxins in the milk of animals of the provinces of Naples and Caserta. Scientists believe the sheep graze on foliage laden with the toxicity which settles from the smoke of burning toxic waste in the region. Years of systematic toxic waste dumping in the Northern Naples Province and Southern Caserta region by the Naples mafia known as the Camorra has reached a crisis point in recent years as toxic waste of various types including chemicals, heavy metals, petroleum, etc. are continually and illegal buried under ground, burned in large quantities, hidden in conventional household trash dumps and in some cases even thought to be buried in the foundation of building structures. The region in the State of Campania known as the "Triangle of Death," or "The Land of Fires," has elevated levels of cancer and congenital malformations. Although scientific studies by the Italian National Research Council, as well as the American Military and the World Health Organization, the Italian Government remains indifferent on the situation.



Carditello, Caserta, Italy-January 10, 2014: Palazzo Reale di Carditello, a cultural Italian landmark in the heart of Caserta and just a few miles from a huge land fill, known for abusive waste dumping practices. For some years the historic complex had lain in despair which trash strewn across it's grounds. Years of systematic toxic waste dumping in the Northern Naples Province and Southern Caserta region by the Naples mafia known as the Camorra has reached a crisis point in recent years as toxic waste of various types including chemicals, heavy metals, petroleum, etc. are continually and illegal buried under ground, burned in large quantities, hidden in conventional house-hold trash dumps and in some cases even thought to be buried in the foundation of building structures. The region in the State of Campania known as the "Triangle of Death," or "The Land of Fires," has elevated levels of cancer and congenital malformations. Although scientific studies by the Italian National Research Council, as well as the American Military and the World Health Organization, the Italian Government remains indifferent on the situation.

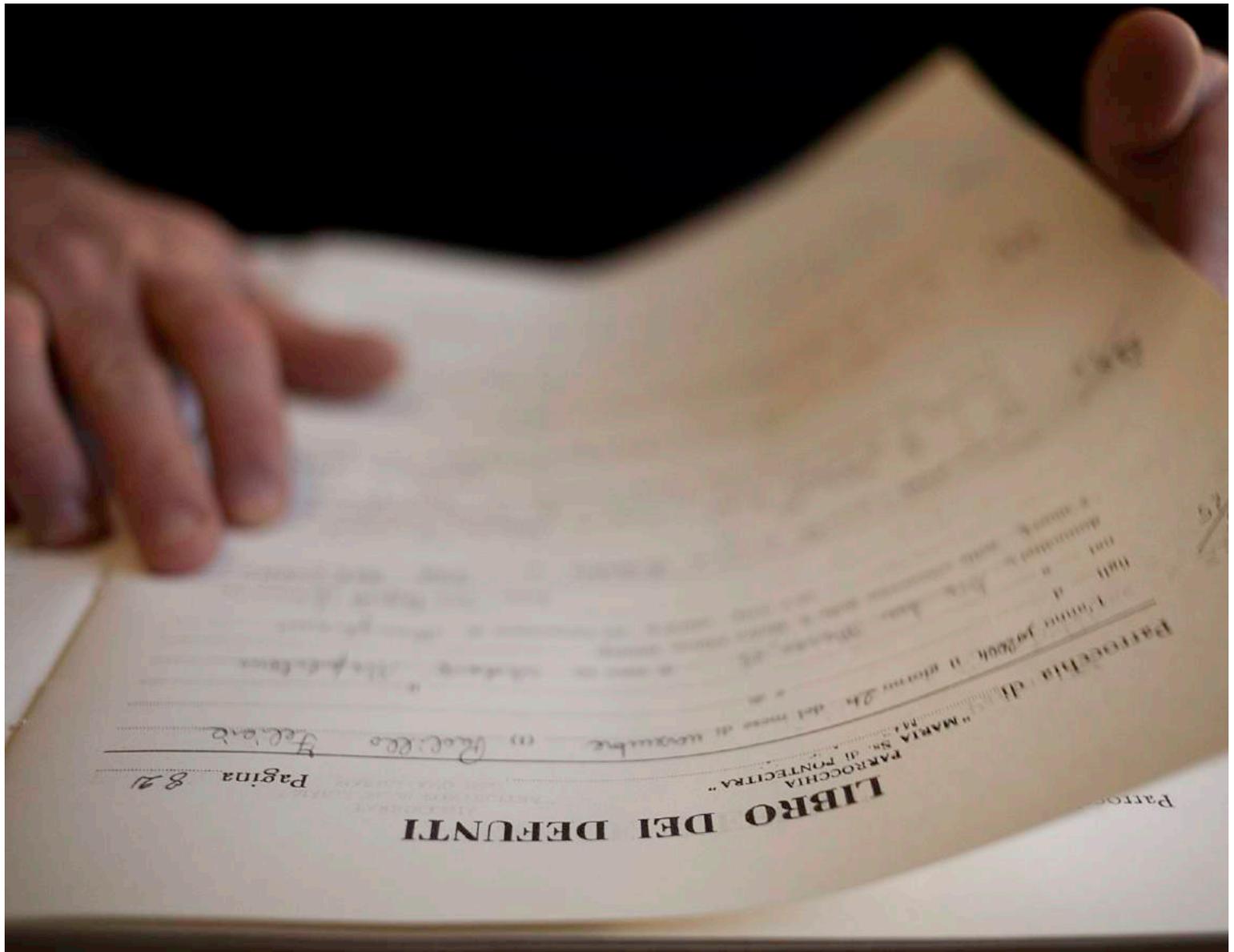


Marigliano, Naples, Italy-January 14, 2014: Luigi Sodano, 57 at his home in Marigliano. Marigliano is considered one of the points in the "Triangle of Death", and is known for abusive toxic waste dumping by the Camorra as well as it's high rates of cancer. Luigi lost 55 pounds during his battle with pancreas cancer. Years of systematic toxic waste dumping in the Northern Naples Province and Southern Caserta region by the Naples mafia known as the Camorra has reached a crisis point in recent years as toxic waste of various types including chemicals, heavy metals, petroleum, etc. are continually and illegal buried under ground, burned in large quantities, hidden in conventional house-hold trash dumps and in some cases even thought to be buried in the foundation of building structures. The region in the State of Campania known as the "Triangle of Death," or "The Land of Fires," has elevated levels of cancer and congenital malformations. Although scientific studies by the Italian National Research Council, as well as the American Military and the World Health Organization, the Italian Government remains indifferent on the situation.

Nadia Shira Cohen for the New York Times



Caserta, Italy-January 10, 2014: Still waste water and abandoned trash outside of La Reggia, a giant trash dump known for years of abusive waste dumping practices. Years of systematic toxic waste dumping in the Northern Naples Province and Southern Caserta region by the Naples mafia known as the Camorra has reached a crisis point in recent years as toxic waste of various types including chemicals, heavy metals, petroleum, etc. are continually and illegally buried under ground, burned in large quantities, hidden in conventional house-hold trash dumps and in some cases even thought to be buried in the foundation of building structures. The region in the State of Campania known as the "Triangle of Death," or "The Land of Fires," has elevated levels of cancer and congenital malformations. Although scientific studies by the Italian National Research Council, as well as the American Military and the World Health Organization, the Italian Government remains indifferent on the situation.



Marigliano, Naples, Italy-January 14, 2014: Don Gannino Pasquale, a local priest in Marigliano has been actively vocal against toxic waste dumping in the area for years. He has also overseen many funerals of locals who have lost their battle with cancer. Her he reads through the death records book of the town and comments on the young ages of most of the deceased, as well as the increase in deaths of cancer. Years of systematic toxic waste dumping in the Northern Naples Province and Southern Caserta region by the Naples mafia known as the Camorra has reached a crisis point in recent years as toxic waste of various types including chemicals, heavy metals, petroleum, etc. are continually and illegal buried under ground, burned in large quantities, hidden in conventional house-hold trash dumps and in some cases even thought to be buried in the foundation of building structures. The region in the State of Campania known as the "Triangle of Death," or "The Land of Fires," has elevated levels of cancer and congenital malformations. Although scientific studies by the Italian National Research Council, as well as the American Military and the World Health Organization, the Italian Government remains indifferent on the situation.



Marigliano, Naples, Italy-January 9, 2014: A mix of household waste and industrial waste litters farmland in Marigliano in Naples province. Years of systematic toxic waste dumping in the Northern Naples Province and Southern Caserta region by the Naples mafia known as the Camorra has reached a crisis point in recent years as toxic waste of various types including chemicals, heavy metals, petroleum, etc. are continually and illegal buried under ground, burned in large quantities, hidden in conventional house-hold trash dumps and in some cases even thought to be buried in the foundation of building structures. The region in the State of Campania known as the "Triangle of Death," or "The Land of Fires," has elevated levels of cancer and congenital malformations. Although scientific studies by the Italian National Research Council, as well as the American Military and the World Health Organization, the Italian Government remains indifferent on the situation.



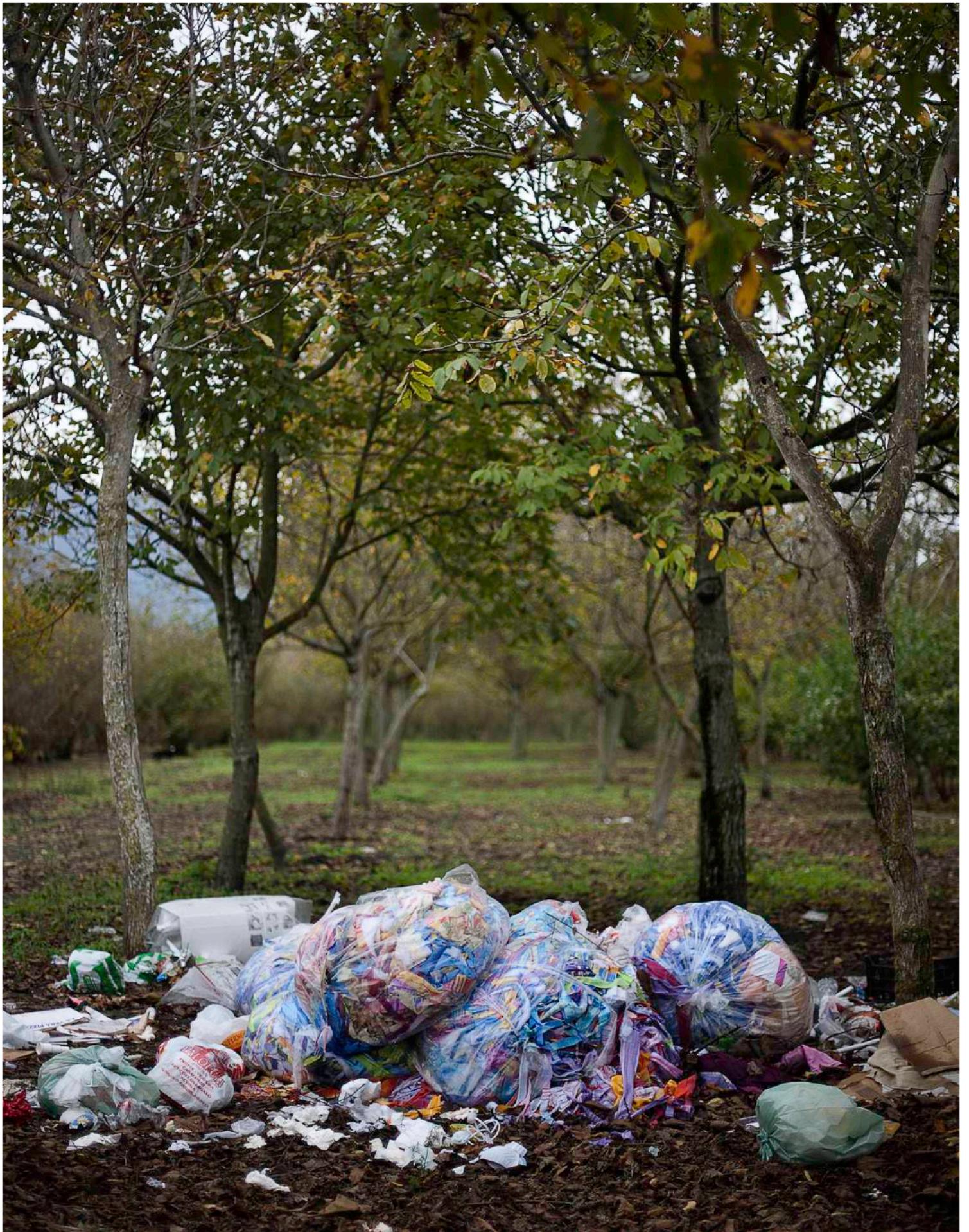
Afragola, Italy-11 June 2016: Anna Magri on her bed. Anna's son Riccardo battled Leukemia from 6 months old and eventually lost his battle when he was 22 months old. Anna lives in a region of Naples Province, rought by burning toxic waste and which has seen elevated levels of some cancers. In the wake of her son's death, Anna started a group of other mother's in the area who's children also perished from cancer, which aims to educate the public and especially young children about the environmental abuse in the region of Campania. Photo Credit: Nadia Shira Cohen



Afragola, Italy-11 June 2016: Anna Magri at her dining room table with her son Riccardo's baby shoes. Anna's son Riccardo battled Leukemia from 6 months old and eventually lost his battle when he was 22 months old. Anna lives in a region of Naples Province, rought by burning toxic waste and which has seen elevated levels of some cancers. In the wake of her son's death, Anna started a group of other mother's in the area who's children also perished from cancer, which aims to educate the public and especially young children about the environmental abuse in the region of Campania. Photo Credit: Nadia Shira Cohen



A garbage dump reopened amongst public outcry in the town of Terzigno



Bags of trash rott in a field near the town of Terzigno



Casal di Principe, Caserta, Italy-January 13, 2014: Local residents of Casal di Principe gather to watch forest and environmental police in an operation intended to dig out known toxic waste in a farm nearby the cemetery, allegedly dumped by two local Camorra mafia bosses, Roberto Vargas e Francesco della Corte. The bosses told authorities where to dig which they did so with a crane, unearthing construction materials, asbestos, and toxic waste barrels. Years of systematic toxic waste dumping in the Northern Naples Province and Southern Caserta region by the Naples mafia known as the Camorra has reached a crisis point in recent years as toxic waste of various types including chemicals, heavy metals, petroleum, etc. are continually and illegal buried under ground, burned in large quantities, hidden in conventional house-hold trash dumps and in some cases even thought to be buried in the foundation of building structures. The region in the State of Campania known as the "Triangle of Death," or "The Land of Fires," has elevated levels of cancer and congenital malformations. Although scientific studies by the Italian National Research Council, as well as the American Military and the World Health Organization, the Italian Government remains indifferent on the situation.



Casal di Principe, Caserta, Italy-January 13, 2014: Carabinieri, the National Military Police of Italy stand guard at a digging site in Casal di Principe, during an operation intended to dig out known toxic waste in a farm nearby the cemetery, allegedly dumped by two local Camorra mafia bosses, Roberto Vargas e Francesco della Corte. The bosses told authorities where to dig which they did so with a crane, unearthing construction materials, asbestos, and toxic waste barrels. Years of systematic toxic waste dumping in the Northern Naples Province and Southern Caserta region by the Naples mafia known as the Camorra has reached a crisis point in recent years as toxic waste of various types including chemicals, heavy metals, petroleum, etc. are continually and illegal buried under ground, burned in large quantities, hidden in conventional household trash dumps and in some cases even thought to be buried in the foundation of building structures. The region in the State of Campania known as the "Triangle of Death," or "The Land of Fires," has elevated levels of cancer and congenital malformations. Although scientific studies by the Italian National Research Council, as well as the American Military and the World Health Organization, the Italian Government remains indifferent on the situation.

Nadia Shira Cohen for the New York Times



Marigliano, Naples, Italy-January 16, 2014: An orchard near a known toxic waste dump site known as "Masseria Verduzio," in Marigliano considered one of the points in the "Triangle of Death." Years of systematic toxic waste dumping in the Northern Naples Province and Southern Caserta region by the Naples mafia known as the Camorra has reached a crisis point in recent years as toxic waste of various types including chemicals, heavy metals, petroleum, etc. are continually and illegally buried under ground, burned in large quantities, hidden in conventional house-hold trash dumps and in some cases even thought to be buried in the foundation of building structures. The region in the State of Campania known as the "Triangle of Death," or "The Land of Fires," has elevated levels of cancer and congenital malformations. Although scientific studies by the Italian National Research Council, as well as the American Military and the World Health Organization, the Italian Government remains indifferent on the situation.

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Naples, Italy-January 16, 2014: Carmela Mautone, 49 receives chemotherapy in a day clinic in Cardarelli Hospital. Carmela, who lives in Marigliano, considered one of the points of the "Triangle of Death," was diagnosed with colon cancer two years ago and given just three months to live. Her husband travelled to Albania to purchase a homeopathic medication manufactured in Cuba and together with the chemotherapy the couple says she managed to survive. They also have a son with a congenital heart defect. Years of systematic toxic waste dumping in the Northern Naples Province and Southern Caserta region by the Naples mafia known as the Camorra has reached a crisis point in recent years as toxic waste of various types including chemicals, heavy metals, petroleum, etc. are continually and illegally buried under ground, burned in large quantities, hidden in conventional household trash dumps and in some cases even thought to be buried in the foundation of building structures. The region in the State of Campania known as the "Triangle of Death," or "The Land of Fires," has elevated levels of cancer and congenital malformations. Although scientific studies by the Italian National Research Council, as well as the American Military and the World Health Organization, the Italian Government remains indifferent on the situation.



Naples, Italy-January 16, 2014: A view of Mount Vesuvius from the Oncology Outpatient Clinic of Cardarelli Hospital. Years of systematic toxic waste dumping in the Northern Naples Province and Southern Caserta region by the Naples mafia known as the Camorra has reached a crisis point in recent years as toxic waste of various types including chemicals, heavy metals, petroleum, etc. are continually and illegal buried under ground, burned in large quantities, hidden in conventional household trash dumps and in some cases even thought to be buried in the foundation of building structures. The region in the State of Campania known as the "Triangle of Death," or "The Land of Fires," has elevated levels of cancer and congenital malformations. Although scientific studies by the Italian National Research Council, as well as the American Military and the World Health Organization, the Italian Government remains indifferent on the situation.



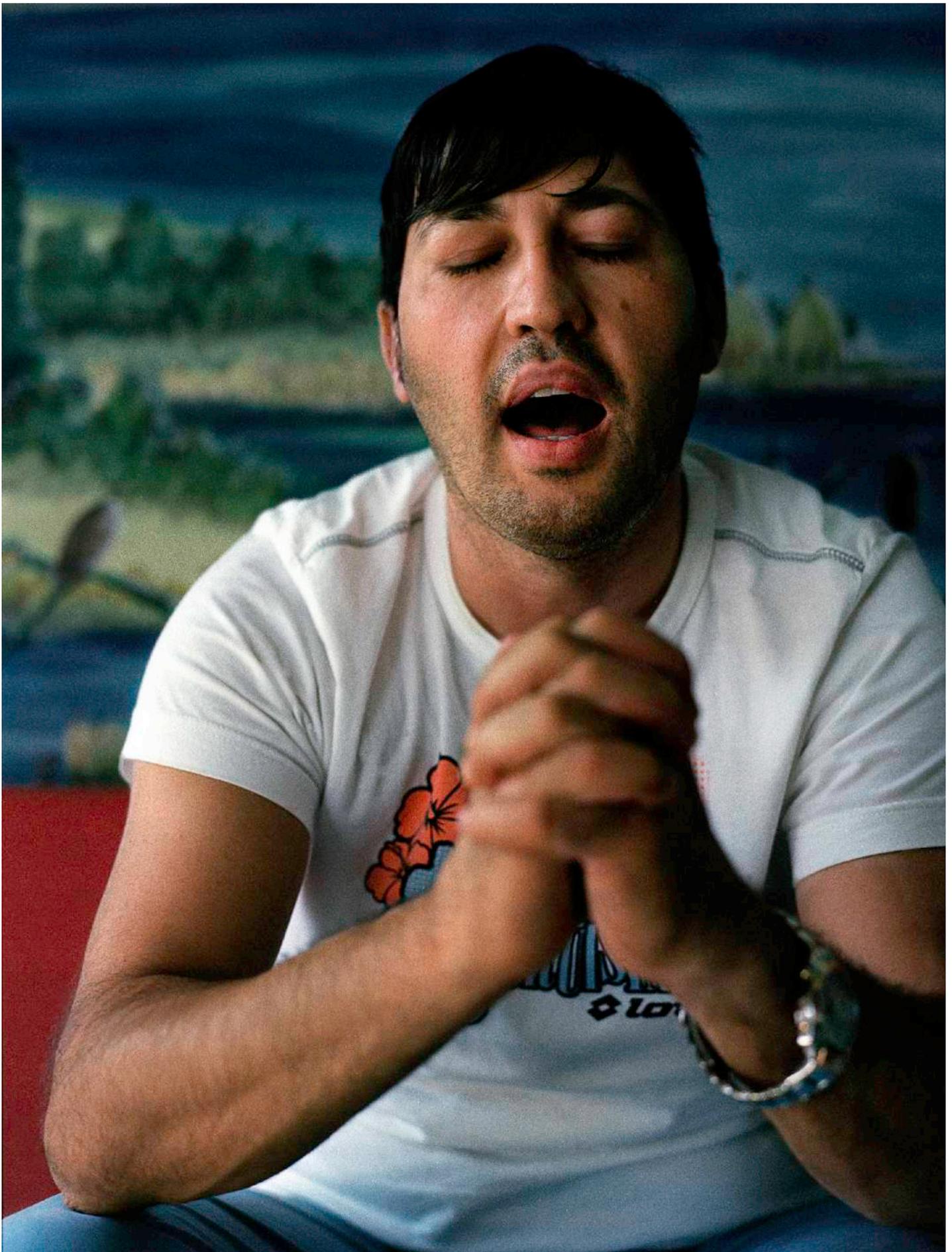
I watched Armando in his last days leading up to the bone marrow transplant. He was dancing to the wedding video of some family friends while playing the xylophone all at the same time. He reminded me of myself when I had cancer, of the strength and resilience one finds to combat something so dark and so frightening. Despite his young three years, Armando understands this, that he must be strong, he must rise to the occasion.



I was thinking what an odd paradox it was that by some weird twist of fait some toxic chemicals made it all the way on a boat in blue barrels from Africa to Italy, into ancient Roman soil, only to be transported on the sneaker of an American Photographer to her neighborhood park in Rome.



Casal di Principe, Caserta, Italy-January 13, 2014: A discarded doll missed in with waste which litters farm land in Casal di Principe, adjacent an operation conducted by forest and environmental police, intended to dig out known toxic waste in a farm nearby the cemetery, allegedly dumped by two local Camorra mafia bosses, Roberto Vargas e Francesco della Corte. The bosses told authorities where to dig which they did so with a crane, unearthing construction materials, asbestos, and toxic waste barrels. Years of systematic toxic waste dumping in the Northern Naples Province and Southern Caserta region by the Naples mafia known as the Camorra has reached a crisis point in recent years as toxic waste of various types including chemicals, heavy metals, petroleum, etc. are continually and illegal buried under ground, burned in large quantities, hidden in conventional house-hold trash dumps and in some cases even thought to be buried in the foundation of building structures. The region in the State of Campania known as the "Triangle of Death," or "The Land of Fires," has elevated levels of cancer and congenital malformations. Although scientific studies by the Italian National Research Council, as well as the American Military and the World Health Organization, the Italian Government remains indifferent on the situation.



Gianni prays for Armando every day, often more than once. He finds solace within baby jesus. What I find refreshing about his family is that they are so positive...failure does not exist.



Toxic waste grows entangled and disguised by strips of used clothing among the weeds in a remote field near the town of Terzigno



Qualiano, Naples, Italy-January, 2014: A statue of the Virgin Mary prays along the road in Quagliano, a known toxic waste dumping area.