TORA BORA (for Hanifa)

I flee *exploding*
red streaks
in night skies
mortar attacks
booming in my ears
nomadic wanderers in tents
ride donkeys
seek safety on
the *steep terrain*
of **Tora Bora**
I stand
with a few belongings
in a truck
the *abyss* below
and *dizziness*
take away my balance
and I *fall*
onto the *rocky precipice*,
injuring my back.

We flee the *coldness* of
mountain air the
ice-covered passages
into a new land
far away from ranges
in the sky,
but **Tora Bora's** *grasp*
invades my dreams
her *bony fingers*
intrude on my reality
squeeze me so tight
that I can not
sit or stand for long.
Medication soothes
the *pain* in my back
but can not
take away
Tora Bora's *might*.