

Interview Transcript

Interviewer: Abd Elghany Barakat.
Interviewee: Ibrahim Lorris.
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Affairs at AUC new Campus,
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Today, I am conducting an interview with Mr. Ibrahim Lorris, one of the earliest lead alumni. He's actually the first lead student to graduate in 3 and half years and currently currently working as the coordinat a coordinator in the intern office of International Students Affairs.

Barakat: Thank you for accepting coming to our program today.

Lorris: Thank you so much Abd Elghany for hosting me today in your programme.

Barakat: Mr. Ibrahim please give us a brief description about yourself?

Lorris: I am a Twenty Three years old person who has 4 younger siblings, one brother and Three sisters. Ah, I am working at the American university here in Cairo as coordinator of the international students . I graduated as you menshened earlier in only 3 and half year from the lead programme and I was the one who's repre who's representing the governerate of Algiza.

Barakat: Ibrahim, before going to the lead programme, Where did you study during your school l Ah during your school days?

Lorris: I studied in a school that was an experimental language school in Alharm street that's called Om Alabtal and entered kindergarten in Om Alabtal. I spent my elementary school and preparatory school and then even high school at Om Alabtal and in high school I got scholarship to spend a year abroad in the United States with something it's called the YES program.

Barakat: But, before asking about the YES program, As a twenty three years old man, who is working in the international students affairs at the American university in Cairo, How do you evaluate the educational system?

Lorris: To be honest with you, I feel that like you know that that the situation especially with

public education here in Egypt is like very mesropol.

Barakat: How?

Lorris: Very miserable, you know I have had spend a year in the U.S in a high school and I have spent a semester at university and a year also. I studied at the American university here in Cairo and then learned How like you know to develop my mine, think critically and do the things that I am suppose to do to learn more and educate myself and be more knowledgeable about the world, but like the education system here in Egypt especially the public one is not a good environment for all students like to develop their skills or gain new skills as they they study or get their selves educated. So like, I feel I feel really sorry for like How Egypt now is going with this educational system and How like you know the majority of students here in Egypt are not knowledgeable at all, they don't know anything about like What's going on in the country am the facilities in their school are not promising. You know like there no facilities at all, some actually, the majority of schools does not have like play grounds for for students to practice sports like in the U.S or any other countries, so I think like I feel you know I feel bad whenever I start like thinking about like How the educational system here in Egypt is burying all the gifted students in this country.

Barakat: You mentioned that you visited the United States for one year.

Lorris: Yeah, I have visited the U.S Three times before. The first year was in 2004, 2007 oh 2005 I mean and that was an om an exchange program at something, it's called the Yes program, where Egyptian students go abroad to spend a year with an American host family and study at American high school and I was lucky to get the scholarship during my stage of life in high school here in Egypt and actually it helped me a lot in shaping how I am now and you know like giving me like it acquainted me with a lot of skills and a new way of thinking and understanding and looking of the whole world.

Barakat: Ah, so What did you do when you retur you returned back to Egypt ? How did you benefit your community of your experience of your American experience?

Lorris: Well, after I returned back from the U.S, I attended high school again to get Thanwia Amma degree. Am I like through out those years of high school of Thanwia Amah or the General Secondary Schooling, I did like participated in many activities with AFS which was the organization that helped in giving me awarded me the YES scholarship. I also participated in many community service projects, drawing and painting, giving a charity to orphanages and giving some schools like some of our books and blood donations and many other community service projects. I enjoyed actually this.

Barakat: So you gave back to your community, you participated in the civil society?

Lorris: I also participated in conference at Greece for you know culture dialogue with Mediterraneans'. I participated in a Sistership conference between Cairo and Stuttgart in Germany, so I have done a lot like to help, you know expanding this idea of mutual respect between people's of the world.

Barakat: You told me that you have studied at the American university in Cairo, you studied political science, but your not as any other student at the American university in Cairo.

Lorris: Well, thank you Abd Elghany.?

Barakat: You got a scholarship based on academic and leadership excellence?

Lorris: Yeah.

Barakat: So can you brief us about that?

Lorris: Well, The lead program here at AUC is a very unique program and very important program. It targets like students from general secondary schools Thanwia Ama. They chose one

male and one female from each governorate of Egypt's 26 governorates. They spent like school years here at AUC to study. I think they chose me despite the fact, there were many candidates who were like partic who were competing with me during like the selection process, but they lost the competition because, for me because, I have done a lot as I mentioned earlier in like this community service participating in community service projects and doing extra curricular activities throughout my study at high school so I think this was one of the main things that and the main criteria that like assisted in like chosen to study here at AUC.

Barakat: You told me before when I I I called you to arrange for the interview, when I was like collecting background research , you told me that you participated in the 25th of January protesting in Tahrir Square, wha what about that ? What did you do?

Lorris: Well, you know like I had no dout that the majority of the Egyptian society had some any member of their families participating in the revolution. Well, I didn't participate from the beginning, but actually I wish I would of have there. But, like you know when the Camel incident took EL-Haram so I was in my way to get some money from the bank and I found like the mop with camels and horses are taking, you know are heading towards Tahrir square so I went with them like to see what will happen and this was like a very strong moment for me. Also, I accompanied one like some of my friends and went to Tahrir and spent like a night there like to see How people acting and I was in Tahrer the day Mubarak resigned.

Barakat: Am. Lorris continued: from his office so I am proud of doing so you know.

Barakat: of course, of course.

Barakat: So you think it was the time to revolt against the Mubarak regime?

Lorris: Yes, absolutely, it was, you know it has been 30 years 30 years of like you know, where your dignity was not respected and lot of things were not respected like the situation, the health situation, the educational system, everything was collapsing so we needed the revolution, we needed the revolution. Barakat: Well, We're raping up here this interview, because, it's about the time, but before ending, you told me before that you want be a diplomat ?

Lorris: Yes.

Barakat: What about that ?

Lorris: Yes, you know, I love negotiation, I love talking, I love you know bridging the gaps between the people so like I love meeting new people so for me being a diplomat is like you know the best position for me after while, so I am thinking about you know being a diplomat and hopefully En shaa Allah "god willing" in the near future, you know.

Barakat: Did you prepare something to do that ?

Lorris: Yeah, yeah, I already now I have the exam the next month for like the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and en shaa Allah " god willing" I will do my best to pass these exam and do the interview after that to be appointed at the minster of the foreign affairs as a diplomat.

Barakat: And we will have one of the first people who will be the first lead diplomat.

Lorris: Haha thank you so much Abd Elghany.

Barakat: Thank you Ibrahim, thank you so much for allowing us in this interview and thank you for every for the time and thank you for having us today.

Lorris: Thank you, thank you, thank you Abd Elghany. s