

## **REVOLUTION: Uniting Egyptians**

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**12/11/2011**

**LEAD IN:** The January 25<sup>th</sup> Revolution in Egypt has not only brought people within the country together but has also attracted Egyptians all around the world. A-U-C's Dina Helmy reports

***Background music: Fade in Omar Khairat Am-Ahmad (:30)***

During Mubarak's early years when his government was running the country and certain aspects such as laws within Egypt and the Egyptian system itself, many people thought it was "corrupt" and could not bare living in it, or the thought of raising and starting a family there.

***Background music: Fade out (:30)***

It was very difficult to find jobs, and if a job was found most incomes were too low for anyone to start raising any kind of family in Egypt. So they decided to leave and try raise their family in an environment that was much better than what was offered in Egypt.

Occupation was not the only issue that affected Egyptians decision to leave. No one was satisfied with the way the government was. People within Egypt felt that they had so many rights, for example the lower class society within Egypt did not have at least half the opportunities that the upper class had.

Sara Harb, is one of the many Egyptians who was raised abroad. Harb's family left Egypt 30 years ago and moved to the Gulf, specifically Kuwait.

Sara describes how she perceived Egypt before the revolution, and explains the problems she saw within Egypt and how that has changed after the revolution, and that there is a difference in the way she sees things.

**HARB:** *I think that during my temporary visits to Egypt I used to leave with this impression and come back with the same impression that Egyptians aren't organized are very chaotic in the way that they behave for example we see in the driving, the traffic the pollution all that I used to think that's how all Egyptians behave I used to come here for a week or two and that was it I had to go back to where things were organized, there was a certain system to everything. But after living here, I've been here before and after the revolution, I think that that's not the case anymore or that's not how I perceive it anymore I think that after the revolution perhaps people are actually seeing their faults and seeing how they change and how they can change and when people work together they can have all those changes happening, now you can see everyone fighting for the cause to not dissolve way, and that's what's good about the Egyptians, I would say that after the revolution I am proud to be Egyptian. (1:)*

She says that the lower class in Egypt would never get anywhere as long as the Egyptians who have money, and connections with important people are there, and this is not how a country should be run.

**HARB:** *People in the middle or upper class society, just have to contact their connections and everything will be done for them, or they can just pay for everything to be done.” (:08)*

She goes on to say that the less fortunate do not have this luxury,

**HARB:** *The less fortunate, however have to wait, and struggle just to get something done only because they do not have any connections to go to and also they don't have that extra money to spend to get things done. (:10)*

To raise a family in an environment where your children think that everything works by having money, and paying people just to do things is very wrong, and should not be the way their mind should work.

An example of this is driving licenses, if someone has connections they can easily get the driving license without having any difficulty or without even having to do the driving exam they just make their calls and everything gets done in a matter of days if not a day.

Speaking to Ahmed Gamal who has been driving since he was 14, and started legally driving, after obtaining his license when he turned 18 without having to do any sort of driving exam, or take any driving lessons, in order to be eligible by law to drive.

Driving is a responsibility this shows one of the major corrupt sides of Egypt the fact that law is not even taken seriously, if you have money and connections then really you can do whatever you want.

**GAMAL:** *When I was young I was telling my dad that I wanted to drive I was somewhat young, I was fourteen or something, (uhhh) so I started talking to him like every single day I was telling him I wanna drive dad I wanna drive dad, I wanna drive, then out of randomness one day he just came and told me lets go drive, and as I said before I was fourteen so I was below the age by four years, because here in Egypt its like, you have to be eighteen to start driving and have a driving license, so I started driving from that day.” (:36)*

Listening to Gamal, and the fact that he started driving when he was only 14, which indicates that the idea of being illegal to drive was not an issue if you were capable enough to get out of trouble.

Gamal goes on to describe his experiences when running into police, and he describes how it did not matter as he knew nothing would happen to him due to the fact that his father had connections with high positioned figures, and was important himself.

**GAMAL:** *I was passing through (Lagnas-checkpoints) and no one could ever stop me because they know our car and they know my dad, they know that they cant stop me and they cannot do anything, because my dad knows important people and he’s an important person in Egypt, so nobody could stop me and ask me about the license or the cars license or anything . So one day a lagna stopped me and I just moved I didn’t even stop I didn’t even try to talk to him, and I know he cant do anything, he took the number of the car and he didn’t even do anything.” (:36)*

Gamal later explains how simple it was to obtain his license, which proves the point that everything comes easy if people just had the connections to get them to what they want.

**GAMAL:** *“The place that’s responsible for giving the license the license for drivers, I didn’t even do the test, I was even supposed to do it in my car which is illegal I have to do it with a certain car, but I did it with my car because honestly I didn’t know how to drive manual gear I was using automatic. So I was going to do it with my car, then I didn’t do it, and I had my license on the same day because we know the man there, we know the responsible guy there. And then even after I had my license, even after I had my license no one could stop me no one could stop me with the car because they know the car and even if someone stopped me and there is something wrong I’m not wearing the seat belt or something because its all about if you know someone important if you know how to get your right back, I know it is illegal or wrong but the thing is its not equal for all people.” (1:05)*

After the revolution things have changed in the country after the stepping down of Ex-President Hosny Mubarak the country is trying to work together in order to make it a better place and this is what’s bringing so many Egyptians back to the country to live.

Youssef Hamed Has lived in the Gulf for 15 years and after the revolution he decided to not only let his two children come study at A-U-C to be in their country but he also moved back with his wife in order to be next to his children and at the same time support his country after the revolution.

Hamed goes on to describes what he feels should be done to support Egypt after the revolution.

**HAMED:** *“After the revolution I had to come back to Egypt, I thought that it is our duty to come and support the country after the old regime had left the ruling and you know that Egypt has given us lots of benefits and it is our really duty towards Egypt to support as much as we can and to try and invest in this country as much as we can. We believe that after the old regime has gone there will be lots of opportunities for the people to open new businesses and I am very confident really on the future maybe its not in the very near future this will happen, but we need the support of everyone and we are confident that the future of Egypt will be bright with the efforts of all the people.” (1:09)*

Hamed goes on to say,

**HAMED:** *“Based on this after living for fifteen years out of Egypt we decided that myself and my family should come back to participate in this revolution as much as we can.” (:19)*

Looking at the AUC dormitories as and institution where the people within the community are mostly upper class, there are many students who have lived abroad but chose to come back and continue their studies within Egypt.

Speaking to A-U-Cians who were away from Egypt during the revolution but are here after, one A-U-Cian Sherif Fouad was away from Egypt specifically when the whole revolution had started and Tahrir Square was making history.

**Nat sound: fade in (El Sha3b Yoreed Eskat El Nezam)**

**Nat Sound: Fade out: (:30)**

**FOUAD:** *"I just can't believe the fact that I was not there, that really upset me as an Egyptian to not be there with the rest of the people of my country, I mean watching everything on TV and seeing the unity and the determination that was truly inspiring and I would have done anything to be there to support my country" (:18)*

Sherif continued to say,

**FOUAD:** *"I would call my cousins who were in Egypt during everything, and they would tell me what Tahrir was like, and how everything was, they also explained to me the way everyone was together fighting the negative, for example the thugs that were stealing, and harming others, and houses, knowing that every night all the men would go down and protect their building or street was unbelievable for me, Egypt during that time has gone really far." (:23)*

The revolution has truly changed Egypt in many ways and this was definitely noticed by people who have come back after the revolution to see Egypt, live in Egypt and support it.

**FOUAD:** *"I mean I came back and I already felt the difference, the patriotism of the people, the unity and the fact that people are trying to make Egypt a better place, I saw people painting the streets together all over Cairo so that's a start to rebuilding our country and I'm happy I was able to come back after the revolution and see the new Egypt." (:20)*

***Background Music: Fade In (12:***

The revolution has not only been a success in bringing down the old regime, but it has been a success in the way that brought all the Egyptians together. The Egyptians came together on the 25<sup>th</sup> of January, and made history.

Tahrir square has made history. History that will never be forgotten, the success of Tahrir and the youth of Egypt and Egyptians as a whole was seen by the whole world. Egypt is slowly rebuilding the country it was before the old regime, it is slowly starting to bring back all the Egyptians from all over the world who once left Egypt due to it not keeping up its status, of prestige, beauty, history, and becoming a country that, instead of bringing its peoples closer together, it split them into societal groups, making each social class feel like it doesn't belong.

***Background Music: Fade out (12:43)***