Script: The president jailed my grandfather

Nour Tobgy

LEAD IN: I’m just your average university student. Stressing over finals, meeting new strangers, living life with no regrets. Unlike my grandfather (may his soul rest in peace) he was anything but your average trade consultant. Here I am fifty years later, telling my grandfather’s story. His adult life revolved around stressing over financial worries, meeting new potential bosses, and living life as an ex convict.

*MUSIC: Bensound- “sadday” fades in the background*

*Salem Tobgy (ST): “hmmm We have to go back almost 44 years ago” (0:00-0:06)*

That was my father. Salem Gamel El- Tobgy, telling me about the time his father was jailed by the Egyptian president, Gamal Abd El Nasser, back in 1969.

*ST: “It was...it was in February 1969. It was early in the morning, four o'clock. The bell rang, the doorbell rang.” (0:20- 0:35)*

*SFX: fades in the background rooster  (0:29-0:31)*

*SFX: fades in the background doorbell ringing (0:32-0:35)*

At the time, my dad tells me it was normal to be awakened late at night by the investigation department.
That's what they were called.

**ST:** “Then. My mother heard it. She woke up my dad told him somebody is knocking on the door. So he went in opened, they asked, Are you Gameel El- Tobgy? He said, Yes. They said, yes we are investigation department. We need you to come with us.” (0:46-1:06)

**SFX:** police officer radio  (0:59- 0:1:06)

**MUSIC:** Bensound-“Tomorrow” fades into the background

And that was the last time My grandfather was seen as a Freeman.

**ST:** “So, he said okay. He went inside he put on his clothings. And they asked to check the home. They were looking at the time for money, people who have money, people who are putting money in the bank people who has land, agriculture land, more than 50 fidans. They used to nationalize them. (1:12- 1:38)

**NAT SND:** doors opening and closing drawers opening and closing (1:23-1:35)

**MUSIC:** Youtube- “epic suspense Trailer Music” fades in the background
“They checked the home they found; gold coins, they took it, they found Egyptian pounds, they took it, they found his revolver, his gun, they took it. They left jewelry they said no we’re not going to take jewelry from the ladies” (1:39-1:56)

This action was taken by Nassir at the time to nationalize the country. During this time back in the late 60’s, the Egyptian government was preparing for Attrition War, also known as the 6 day war between Egypt and Israel.

NAT SND: war noises of the 6 of october war (2:03-2:20)

“They wanted to support the Egyptian economy because we were in the war period.” (2:14-2:20)

Anyone at the time with substantial assets were tip to the government's investigation department anonymously, and were paid a visit early in the morning when they least expected it. Their assets were revoked and just like that

SFX: court’s gavel (2:35-2:36)

the courts pronounced their properties, the government's.

MUSIC: bensound- “november” fades in the background

“They used to take it from the owners to help the Egyptian economy.” (2:39-2:45)
So the government began nationalizing the properties that belonged to the civilians along with incarcerating any person who wrote, said or did anything to penetrate the strict regime.

*MUSIC: blends in Bensound- “ofelias dream”*

*ST:* “You know at that time there was two famous newspaper writers: Mostufa Amin, and Ali Amin. They were with him.” (2:59- 3:08)

*SFX:* “Ahram, gurnal, gomhoraya” (3:01- 3:03)

*MUSIC: Bensound “november” in the background*

My grandfather along with-

*ST:* “many people- thousands.” (3:13- 3:15)

Thousands! Were jailed to nationalize the country and equalize the plains between rich and poor.

*ST:* “We use to go visit him every 15 days. Oh I use to run at him and jump over him and hug him. We used to get him- My mother used to cook him food. It was permitted to get him food and they use to check the food and give it to him and I always ask when is he going to come back? Nobody knows. Mhmm. . (3: 24- 3:48)

*NAT SND:* children playing in the background (3:28- 3:42)

*MUSIC: Bensound “romantic”*
ST: let me first tell you how this affected our life. You know we were four brothers and sisters and my mom used to have at that time three maids, a cook, and two drivers so, we could not pay them their salary, so we had to let them go because the bread winner was jailed. We don't know how we're going to live- and the money that he use to save was taken" (3:48- 4:17)

Luckily, the government left the women’s jewelry behind when invading the house, which my grandmother later had to sell to feed her four children. But, selling jewelry was not enough to sustain a whole family. So, my grandmother began venturing for a job-

ST: but, it was hard (4:36- 4:37)

No one was hiring for help.

ST: and, because she was very clever with knitting... she use to do actually our clothings by herself (4:39- 4:47)

To save on money.

ST: she used to take me, early morning, by a taxi and going back to home walking. And then at three thirty she comes walking just to save the taxi money and takes me back with a taxi. (4:50- 5:07)

SFX: car breaking and door opening and closing and driving off (4:51- 5:02)

MUSIC: blue dot: darkened fades in the background
So skip forward to October 1970, Nasser dies and we get a new president, Anwar El Saddat, and he lets people out, one of whom is my grandfather. Jobless and moneyless my grandfather quickly has to decide how will he financially support his family.

*ST: Ah he came out and he has no capital to start a business with. He had to sell the building, he owned, that we use to live in and with this money, he started little business as a car dealer.*” (05:29-5:45)

But that didn’t turn out so great, my grandfather had to travel to dubs for a few years before coming back to Egypt and working as a consultant for trade companies. They never went back to life they lived prior to the division, however, they lived a happy and content life.

*MUSIC: fades in to bensound “slow motion”.*

This audio feature was produced by Nour Tobgy for the Audio Production course at The American University in Cairo, taught by Professor Kim Fox in the Fall semester of 2019. Special thanks to (Salem El-Tobgy, Bensound, Youtube, and Blue Dot for music, Youtube for sound effects and nat sounds).
Credits

Transcribed by https://otter.ai

Music by: https://www.bensound.com

Bensound- “sadday”

Bensound-“Tommorrow”

Youtube- “epic suspense Trailer Music” Epic Suspense Trailer Music - Royalty Free

Background Music ...https://www.youtube.com › watch

Bensound- “november”

Bensound- “ofelias dream”

Bensound “romantic”

Blue dot: darkened

Bensound “slow motion”.

SFX by Youtube: (8)

SFX: fades in the background rooster

SFX: fades in the background doorbell ringing
SFX: police officer radio

NAT SND: doors opening and closing drawers opening and closing

NATSND: war noises of the 6 of October war

SFX: court’s gavel

SFX: “Ahram, gurnal, gomhoraya”

NATSND: children playing in the background