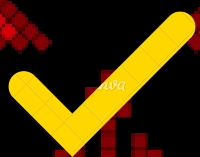


ELITE



RESISTANCE



TERRORISM



ANTI-SEMITISM



VOL.1
ISSUE 59
SEPTEMBER
2023

BOARD CHAIRWOMAN
Prof.Hanan M. Aly
EDITOR IN CHIEF
Dr. Ramy Magdy Ahmed

Issued monthly from the
Faculty of Economics and
Political Science- Cairo
University

ELITE

FEPS, WHERE ELITES ARE MADE
VOL.1, ISSUE 59, SEPTEMBER 2023, JUMADA I 1445 HIJJ.

First designed by Dr, Ramy Magdy Ahmed in October 2018



Sinai is Egyptian land

HIGH BOARD

Prof. Hanan M. Aly (Chairwoman)---Prof.Adla Mohamed Ragab (Member)--Prof. Thanaa Ahmed Ismail (Member)--Prof.Neveen Abd El-Khalek (Member) --**Dr. Ramy Magdy Ahmed (Editor in chief)**

EDITORIAL BORARD

Ms. Carolin Sherief ,Dr. Nermine Tawfik



THE ISSUE'S INTERVIEW WITH MS. MERVAT KHALIL, PRESIDENT OF THE GENERAL UNION OF EGYPTIANS ABROAD IN BRITAIN.

Elite magazine was honored to interview the guest of this issue, Ms. Mervat Khalil, the head of the Egyptian Union Abroad branch in Britain, to talk to us about the role of Egyptians abroad in supporting the state's projects and policies for sustainable development and climate change.

Hello and welcome, Elite magazine is honored to conduct this interview with you, which revolves around the role of Egyptians abroad in supporting the state's projects and policies for sustainable development. We would like to know from you first about the General Union of Egyptians Abroad, and what are its most important roles.

The General Union of Egyptians Abroad is a central association, and we celebrated this year the fortieth anniversary of the establishment of the Union. The idea came at an earlier time than the existence of the Ministry of Immigration or any institution that cares for Egyptians abroad, so it was established by a decision of the former President Mohamed Hosni Mubarak, at the same time as the establishment of the Ministry of Immigration. The Minister of Immigration was responsible for the Union, and he was at that time Minister Albert Bersoum Salama. He was also followed by Dr. Boutros Boutros Ghali, who became Secretary-General of the United Nations, and a large number of immigration ministers who took over the presidency of the board of directors of the General Union of

Egyptians Abroad. The situation remained so until conflicts of interest began to appear, where the Union might meet at the same time as a ministerial meeting, so the Minister of Immigration would be late for his appointment. Here was the result of separating the Union from the Ministry, and it became a central association of its own with an elected board of directors and an elected chairman of the board of directors. One of the first elected presidents of the board of directors was Dr. Mamdouh Ismail, who is in Canada, after him, the presidents took over, and the position was taken by Engineer Ismail Ahmed Ali, who is the current president of the Union, and he is one of the founders of the Union in 1983. The idea of the Union is clear in its establishment at the same time as the establishment of the Ministry of Immigration, which is to care for Egyptians abroad and to bring closer the views on the problems they face. At that time, migrants or Egyptians abroad were mostly in Arab countries such as Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, and teaching loans, especially in universities and schools, where our Egyptian teachers in all fields are almost the ones who built the Gulf countries, and until now, a large percentage of them are still working there.

After that, Egyptians abroad began to spread in Europe, where we are considered middle-immigrants, but we have great communication with our country because we did not move away to distant immigrant countries such as Canada, America, Australia, and New

Zealand. I am the president of the Union branch in Britain, and a member of the board of directors of the General Union of Egyptians Abroad. Later, the Union entered the files of Europe, America, and Canada, and we created new branches for the Union and increased its communication with Egyptians until it reached the shape it is now. We are in strong contact with Egyptians abroad, and we take care of solving many problems through the Union. Of course, we work with the Ministry of Immigration and with Her Excellency Ambassador Soha Gendi, Minister of Immigration, who is a wonderful personality, and her communication with Egyptians abroad takes a personal, beautiful, and very honorable form. But some problems are not solved in the official way, where there must be communication with people, especially in the Gulf problems that involve a sponsor and transfer of sponsorships and many complications, which require experience from these countries to solve such problems. As for Europe, America, and Australia, the person usually obtains citizenship, which means that Egyptian institutions cannot intervene in his affairs, because that is considered an intervention in the policies of the other state in one way or another.

Therefore, the intervention must be personal from the party who obtained the nationality and has a strong relationship with the government and the community of the community in this country and with the institutions that would solve the problem. Some wonder why the embassy or consulate does not intervene in one problem or another, and the answer is simply that the owner of the problem is considered a British or American citizen, and it is not correct for a state to intervene in the policy of another state, or for a consul to communicate as a representative of the Egyptian person to the police or hospital or the like to try to solve his problem, because either his residence may be threatened, and he faces expenses and complications, or he is a citizen of that country, and in that case, solving the problem requires another citizen.



This matter magnifies and enhances the role of the Union, which is the only union concerned with the affairs of Egyptians abroad, and there is no other union that is called the General Union of Egyptians Abroad except our Union. The Egyptians in the Arab countries have a noticeable commitment to this matter, but in Europe, anyone can establish any association or any union and name it whatever they want, which may not be legal. But our union is the only one registered in Egypt with the Ministry of Social Solidarity, and all our accounts, regulations, and files are followed by it. Therefore, we are the legitimate means of communication between Egyptians abroad and Egypt. I do not doubt the other unions, but the most they can offer to a person who has a problem is to solve it locally, but he cannot intervene in Egyptian politics or communicate with Egypt in the way that the General Union does.

I will not pretend that everyone with us has one heart, because human nature is different by nature, and we may fight when our successes are seen and problems appear, but I am always convinced that good is always present and that good work always proves itself. And this is why the Union is established and now has forty years.

Besides intervening to solve the problems facing Egyptians abroad, what are the other roles that the General Union of Egyptians Abroad plays?

You are certainly aware, otherwise, you would not have conducted an interview with me about their role, that the image of Egyptians abroad has become very high. Here, we face some problems: Egyptians abroad have become like a jewel that shines brightly and everyone sees it, but in fact, it may be glass and not a jewel. Many people, of course, at the top of them, of course, the media and television, see the file of Egyptians abroad in a very shiny way, and they all want to enter it in one way or another. We now have in all newspapers a page dedicated to Egyptians abroad, and on television programs for Egyptians abroad, but those in charge of these pages and these programs are people who have not lived abroad and have not seen the reality. The result is that we see on the pages of newspapers and television screens irresponsible statements from some people. I, of course, greatly appreciate the role of everyone who wants to provide a service to the homeland, but it is not right for a person to make a statement in a matter that he does not have enough experience in because of his close relationship with some channels or broadcasters or writers. And then what? What does he intend to reap from this work? Fame? And even if he gets fame, does his statement have implications that would benefit Egyptians abroad? On the contrary, some of these statements harm them more than they benefit them because those who make them care more about fame than the experience necessary to represent these people.

This is, for example, a problem we face in the Union with the media that they see our file with excess glitter, and they approach it hastily without looking behind the personalities who claim to represent it. We, as a union with our spread and branches around the world, know Egyptians abroad personally, because we live with them and know them well. This is the problem that we face, that some individuals appear in the media giving or presenting unregulated statements without any account.

As the president of the General Union of Egyptians Abroad in Britain, we would like to know the most important topics that you work on and the most important problems that you face in your position.

Britain is one of the countries that has very special characteristics, due to its previous relationship with Egypt for a long time and its proximity to it, and until recently, patients used to go to the London clinic, and we heard a lot from Abdel Halim and others about this matter. The communication of Egyptians with Britain was more than its counterparts with France Italy or even Greece. And the older people who have been there since that time are still with us until now, and they have a strong rejection of everything new. This generalization does not apply to all of them, of course, but on the contrary, I have friendships with very respectable people from this generation who preceded me by two generations, but some people reject everything new and fight it in all legitimate and illegitimate ways to overthrow this new entity that appeared. And they ask the question: Why did this new entity appear in the first place and establish a branch of the General Union of Egyptians Abroad in Britain, even in the presence of other institutions that preceded it? The answer is that these institutions do not assist on the ground to Egyptians, but some of them may exploit this matter financially and exploit individuals by taking a financial fee for the service provided to them.

And by my presence amid the Egyptian community and Egyptians and their gatherings, I received many complaints regarding the lack of confidence in many institutions that already exist, they used to collect money and then disappear without fulfilling their promises. Therefore, the first problem I faced was this fierce war directed at my person for two reasons: the first was my attempt to establish a branch of the General Union of Egyptians Abroad in Britain, which means the existence of a legal official entity on the scene and causes fear for other institutions that were alone in it.



I received direct and explicit threats to me as a lady residing in Britain, in addition to the attacks on social media, until I had to take legal action and involve the police in the matter. To this extent, the war reached this entity and the personality representing it at the beginning of my attempt to do useful work. The second reason is that I am considered the only lady who took the position of president of the Egyptian community in the world. Unfortunately, no matter how open we are to the world and travel to many countries in Europe and America, some of our people still have biased ideas against women. Of course, I have a lot of members with me, and the very famous sentence that was directed to the men who were with me was: How do you work according to the orders of a woman? And how do you allow her to make decisions? But between me and my colleagues, there is love and continuous cooperation, and therefore they were not affected by these annoyances and stopped them at their limit. But we were exposed to a kind of dishonorable war, which is to question the ability of a woman to manage this entity. But this is not the world we live in now, nor the direction taken by His Excellency the President, and the best evidence for that is the number of ministers who took positions in our government. He has determined for us the number of seats in the House of Representatives, as he has determined for the file of women, as well as for the file of Egyptians abroad.

The Ministry of Immigration was taken over by ladies, other than the Ministry of Culture, the Ministry of Economy, and the Ministry of Tourism, which was taken over by Dr. Rania Al-Mashat, and now international cooperation, social solidarity, and others. The woman has a status that does not allow anyone to question her ability to lead. On the other hand, it is reasonable for this to happen in Britain, a country where women take their rights before men. But these problems have been and still face me, and the war continues and does not stop, I established the council teams eight years ago, and I still fight to this day in illegal ways and undesirable forms and twisted ways. Some may try to accuse me, report me to the authorities, or talk about my life personality and honor to the utmost undesirable and dishonorable competition. I asked before in a high-level session about the reason for these disputes, are we not all trying to help people voluntarily without receiving a wage for it? I speak on behalf of myself and the Union with all its members and confirm that we do not make a material gain from this work, but rather we often contribute to it from our money when there are problems that require solving. Perhaps we do not cost as much as the brothers in the Gulf, who collect huge amounts of money to please the sponsor and help their brothers, connected to businessmen on a permanent and daily basis.

While we have in Europe, the maximum problem we may face is trying to collect the amount necessary to transfer one of the deceased to be buried in Egypt, if his family cannot provide the amount or the state refuses to bear it. Therefore, our members do not receive a wage, but on the contrary, they bear great financial hardship willingly. Therefore, I do not understand the reason for the disputes, which I only interpret as aiming for fame and appearance and monopolizing the scene and the lights. But what then? Even if His Excellency the President knows your name, have you helped people on the ground? The answer is always no. It is the nature of ladies and women in general to care, so when they solve a problem, they solve it with their hearts before they solve it with their minds. When I face someone who has a problem, my heart feels sorry for him before my mind realizes that solving his problem is my duty. I deal with all the feelings that any woman feels, because the citizen who is exposed to a problem, whether a man or a woman, is an Egyptian like me, and I feel sorry for him. This is what gives me the motivation to care about solving the problem despite my preoccupations and work and children. As for the man, he is more practical and realistic. Our work in the Union consists of providing all kinds of assistance required, and I will elaborate in the explanation in the part that concerns Britain, as I am a member of the branch of the General Union in it, but what I will say applies to all European and Western countries, considering that the Gulf countries have a special situation.

We help people with family problems, language problems, communication problems, and problems with the second and third generations who grow up without knowing our language, customs, traditions, and identity. There is always a problem in our desire for our children to be connected to the Egyptian identity, which is a problem that immigrants in Arab countries do not face, who speak Arabic and can easily return and approach Egypt. As for the Western countries, the society is different and the customs and traditions are completely different, and we cannot let our children separate from their Egyptian identity physically, mentally, and intellectually.

Here lies our role in returning them to their Egyptian identity and reminding them of their Egyptian origin, which is one of the important roles that we play.

And what is the role of the Union, whether general or in its branch in Britain, in supporting the general policies of the Egyptian state?

To be honest with you, we felt ourselves since His Excellency President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi took over the presidency of the republic, where he magnified the role of Egyptians abroad, and cared about the presence of deputies for them, although I see that the selection of these deputies is not appropriate. I, as the president of the Union in a large country like Britain and a member of the board of directors of the General Union, did not meet the eight deputies who are currently present and do not know them and did not see them and did not solve any problem. Therefore, I must say that the parliamentary representation of Egyptians abroad needs a representative with experience, effectiveness, and political weight. We have under his sovereignty many entitlements, including the right to vote from abroad, which is a right that we did not have before, whether in amending the constitution or other referendums, where coming to Egypt was the only way to vote before he allowed us to vote from the embassy. In the last presidential elections and the referendum to amend the constitution, we had the right to vote from abroad, and we carried out strong awareness campaigns in all the countries where we have a presence, in Saudi Arabia as in England, about the nature of the amendment of the constitution and the details of the amended items and their reasons.

Many Egyptians carry a stereotypical image of the role of Egyptians abroad politically, in the event of a visit by one of the officials or ministers, and they carry flags in the streets and appear on television, and this is their role. And this brings us to the following question: How can Egyptians abroad support the state's policy? Or how do they support it realistically outside the framework of this limited perception?

We certainly have the utmost appreciation and eagerly await the occasions when we can go out with flags to meet His Excellency the President. And this happens in Europe more strongly than in the Gulf countries, and the reason for that is that Egypt is well known in the Gulf, and it is known if it is correct to say and it is true, its role as the leader of the Arab countries. Whatever files they are interested in, and with all due respect to everyone, Egypt is an ancient country, and there is no need to introduce the Arab countries to who Egypt is. As for the other countries, they were overwhelmed by the influence of the Brotherhood in their heyday, which is evident in England, for example. Therefore, when they spread rumors about His Excellency the President that the Egyptians do not love him and do not want him, he must come to find a people who support him and declare their pride in him and love for him, and this is what appears practically in their dedication and gathering with their children to go out in the streets and welcome him when he comes. The Brotherhood channels did not leave anyone, not even me, without showing him and advertising him, they said about me that as the president of the Union, I rent individuals and pay them money in exchange for going out to welcome the president. I responded to these charges with a direct appearance on my Facebook page, I did not think that it would reach a large number of people, saying that they only say lies and their lies are known to us and therefore we do not believe

them, but in that position, he speaks about me and in a personal way, and I am everyone knows me and knows that I do not receive any wages, and I have no motive other than the motive of pure nationalism in showing the picture to Britain and the whole world that this president has a people who love him and believe in what he does. Therefore, the matter is much bigger than just appearing on TV with flags.



And if they accuse us of coming with music and dancing in such gatherings, then I answer them that this is our culture: If someone plays any music in the street, you find the Egyptians enjoying it. If you walk in Cairo on the Nile, you will find all the boats playing music while walking. We are a people with a history in art and an extraordinary artistic taste, and all our celebrations do not lack the element of music and art and enjoying them, and that is for many reasons. One of them is that with music we recall memories of our homeland, as art is the soft power that brings us back to our homeland and makes us feel that we are still in Egypt, when I listen to the artist Shadia or the artist Abdel Halim or the artist Abdel Wahab, as well as the national songs that ignite the national feeling, I remember from them the old songs related to the 1973 war and not only the newer works such as Boshret Kheir and the like, but also the works of Warda, and Sweet My Country, the Black Country. None of our trips are devoid of this music. If they accuse us of going out with flags and dancing, then this is true, and we are proud of it. We go out to support our president and show him our love for him, as for all the accusations directed at us and him, they are nonsense that have no basis in truth.

If this is in terms of moral support, what other types of support for the state's policies do Egyptians abroad do, whether as individuals or as a union?

As a union, we take this matter upon ourselves as much as our capabilities allow, because we are a central association that does not have a political character, but our support for the policy of our country comes from our desire to link Egyptians with their homeland, and our desire to avoid their isolation and complete separation from it. One of the mechanisms by which we achieve this is to introduce them to ways of investing in it, instead of investing their money in Britain or Georgia or any other country, but investing in their country. Because all immigrants have roots and relatives in Egypt, father and mother and uncle and uncle, they are related to the moral part if they are unable to return and live in Egypt. Because I, with my great love for Egypt, ask some why I do not return and settle in it, I answer them that we are all very fateful, we believe in God Almighty, whether we are Muslims or Christians or even any other religion. We know very well that everything is a fate from God, “and no soul knows in which land it will die.” God Almighty said this verse knowing that people will spread on earth, and each of them has his written livelihood in the place where he finds himself. When I graduated from college and I was still young, it was fate that caused me to go to Britain. This is fate for all people, including my children who grew up there, and my connection to me there, but this does not deny or diminish my connection to my beloved homeland Egypt. For example, I come to Egypt many times in one year, including a very long time, which is the current, and all our conferences and online seminars invite public figures and specialists in investment. I remember from them Professor Dr. Fakhry El-Fiqi, a member of the House of Representatives and head of the Plan and Budget Committee, who gave several seminars to us, we invited all those interested in the investment file.

And we know them very well, because investment is not within the reach of all Egyptians abroad, and the percentage that falls in countries such as America, Australia, and Europe does not exceed 2 or 3% of their total. European policy does not encourage saving, but rather a decent life within the state’s policies, which aim to make the citizen in constant need of it to ensure his life.

On the contrary, the Gulf countries provide more money, but with it comes the impossibility of obtaining citizenship for the country to which they immigrate, which makes the immigrant keen to save his money knowing that he must return to his country one day after the end of his service. These are the main sources of transfers from Egyptians abroad and those we rely on mainly in the subject of investment, more than immigrants from Europe and America, who are less present in the issue of investment except for a few. Therefore, one of our practical roles in the Union is to activate the investment process. And in that, we cooperated with the new administrative capital and signed a protocol with the Falcons Association to provide units at certain fixed prices for members of the Union, without the Union having any profit from them, of course. We signed another protocol with the Agricultural Bank at the time of the coronavirus pandemic when all Egyptians in the Gulf returned to Egypt and the young people who traveled as foreign labor because the pandemic meant stopping all work and thus cutting off their source of livelihood. The result was the return of all these to Egypt with their savings, and the Agricultural Bank provided them according to this protocol with agricultural lands and loans at a rate of 75% of the project, providing a feasibility study and all the services required for the piece of land, and the loan interest was around 3%.

We cooperated with state institutions in many matters in many projects related to the state of agricultural lands and greenhouses and others, and I cooperated with many to use and rent these greenhouses. And the motive behind all this is our national sense that pushes us to invest and own in our homeland. And from my point of view, if the Union does not have any work other than activating investment, then this alone is enough as a message for it.

This is of course in addition to our cooperation with the 57357 Hospital and the Hands of the Future Hospital, especially the British branch, and recently we had large donations with the Tahya Misr Fund and awareness of the projects and issues that fall under it. The result is that the Union has an important role in all aspects related to the relationship between Egyptians abroad and Egypt. At the same time, we help our country by the fact that the Union is a force because I will not ask the state and the president for my many demands without also giving something to my country in return. My message to all those who object to His Excellency the President's projects or not is that they also have a role to play, if he establishes projects, we must also participate in them.

Do you remember some examples of projects that were financially supported by Egyptians abroad, coordinated by the Union, or even as individuals?

I don't have any examples in my mind right now, but I certainly remember the project of the new administrative capital, which was invested in and promoted heavily here in Britain and many Egyptians here bought residential and commercial units in it. Another example is the projects of greenhouses and fish farms, which were financed and operated by centers through the Union. And among the other projects is tourism promotion, as here in London three of the largest tourism companies in Britain are Egyptian companies. We cooperated with them to send groups and provide trips to Egypt, and in this regard, we cooperated with the Tourism Promotion Office to launch an initiative to promote tourism and I got souvenirs for the British and others.

I am also a member of the British Conservative Party, and in all the meetings that I or any member of the Union attend, we make sure to distribute Egyptian gifts and publications that promote Egypt and its tourist attractions such as Sharm El Sheikh,



Siwa Oasis, and others. And we see with our own eyes, thank God, a lot of tourists flocking to Egypt, especially this year. This is very important for every Egyptian abroad, whether inside or outside the Union, because each of us takes it upon himself to plant admiration and love for his country in the hearts of those around him, and this will not happen without being a good and effective ambassador for his country abroad.

THE GOVERNMENT'S MAIN PRIORITY IS SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT, I.E. DEVELOPMENT THAT DOES NOT NEGATIVELY AFFECT THE ENVIRONMENT AND TAKES INTO ACCOUNT THE PROBLEMS OF CLIMATE CHANGE PRIMARILY. YOU MENTIONED IMPORTANT PROJECTS DURING YOUR TALK, MANY OF WHICH SERVE THIS GOAL. SOME SAY THAT EGYPTIANS THESE DAYS CARE ONLY ABOUT CONSTRUCTION AND REAL ESTATE, BUT THE PROJECTS YOU MENTIONED CONFIRM THAT EGYPTIANS ABROAD CONTRIBUTE TO THE GOVERNMENT'S PROJECTS THAT ACHIEVE ITS GOAL OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT, SUCH AS AGRICULTURE PROJECTS, CROP IMPROVEMENT, WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT, AND FINDING WAYS TO ADAPT AGRICULTURE TO HIGH TEMPERATURES, SOLUTIONS TO COASTAL EROSION AND NEW FORMS OF RENEWABLE ENERGY. YOU MENTIONED THE GREENHOUSE MODEL, SO TELL US MORE ABOUT THIS PROJECT OR SIMILAR PROJECTS THAT HIGHLIGHT THE ROLE OF EGYPTIANS ABROAD IN SUPPORTING THE STATE'S PROJECTS RELATED TO SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT.

A lot of great work has been done in this regard, some of it through me, because I consider myself an Egyptian abroad and I participated like me and others. I wish that the investment protocols become less routine and complicated and that the one-stop-shop system is applied to facilitate the process for the investor, instead of taking a long time that may reach several months, which may dampen his enthusiasm. There has been a relative improvement in this regard by applying the digital transactions system and providing many improvements and facilities, but the system still has room for improvement. And the digital transformation is a form of development. And I have seen from my experience that Egypt's keeping pace with the issue of climate change was one of the highest files that it could deal with, as the president was invited to the 2021 Climate Conference in Scotland, followed by the 2022 Climate Conference, which was hosted by the city of Sharm El Sheikh, and it was successful by all standards, and it is no small matter that Egypt hosts such a conference, and that it includes a hall for discussions outside of it where they discuss human rights freely, silencing all the charges against the Egyptian state regarding the human rights file.

Egypt's reaching this level is great for me. The invitation of His Excellency the President to the Climate Conference in Scotland came from Egypt's role in promoting this file, which is seen, for example, in the number of reclaimed feddans, which reaches millions, and you certainly saw the wheat silos that we had when the whole world faced a shortage of this crop due to the crisis of Russia and Ukraine. Prices rose somewhat and this is something we have no control over, but the product was always available. In other countries, including ours in Britain, bread ran out of the markets several times, a real problem, while here in Egypt not a single food commodity ran out despite the global crisis. Other than wheat feddans, I also remember the number of planted palm trees, which also reaches millions, and this helps greatly to reduce emissions that increase the problem of global warming, which we always keep in

mind. Egypt, like the rest of the world, has a percentage of polluting emissions due to production, industry, and cars, where the transition to electric cars that other countries are trying to achieve may be difficult for us, and reaching zero emissions is not easy, but we are trying to reach it. I remember from them especially the projects of purifying the canals, which was a successful and large project to the extent that other countries requested Egypt's help in implementing projects to line the canals for them, which is a great achievement. These canals we used to see these on the agricultural road, and even in Alexandria, which is my city, Mahmoudia Canal, which was never more than a garbage dump, became a clean and developed walkway where people sit and watch the water along the line.

Sustainable development and green transformation are important conditions that many grants and loans require, involving individuals and civil society and not just reducing emissions because Egypt is one of the low-emission countries. Do you remember any other examples of projects that Egyptians abroad participated in, not only financially but also by promoting or any other type of participation related to sustainable development besides the model you mentioned to us?

I regret to say that most of them put investment as their primary and sole goal because a large number of us do not have the principle of self-education. For example, I am originally an agricultural engineer and I care about this file very much, and an interior designer, and I am also a teacher for people with special needs and I hold several certificates in this field, and also a media specialist with many training courses in the media. Therefore, I have a special interest in these files. When the arrival of His Excellency the President for a visit to us in Scotland was announced, I made sure a month before to take an online training course on climate change, I was interested in registering for it and studying for it and passing its exam and obtaining its certificate so that I would be well informed about the file.

I already have a bachelor's degree in agriculture, and I have a background in the file and attended many conferences on the topic of climate change. But I wanted to know more details about the problems of the earth's temperature and the details of the climate crisis because I was interested in the film very much. I wonder how many of the 14 million Egyptians abroad have such interest in strategic files close to their specialization. We have many specialists in this field, including a member of the General Union of Egyptians Abroad, Professor Dr. Hisham Al-Askari, who is one of the vice presidents and specializes in water surfaces and is known for his expertise in the file of climate change. On the other hand, how many of the 14 million non-specialists thought that they wanted to know more and educate themselves? We Egyptians unfortunately have a problem with interest in education and reading, which makes us invest in projects looking only at the material gain and not to the message or benefit that this project can achieve. This means that the material motive is the motive that I should target in promoting the projects, because of the lack of comprehension, awareness, and interest in global problems such as climate change, as people's basic priority is to invest their money in a profitable investment that enables them to return to their homeland after a long exile. This is the naked truth.

From your point of view, for Egyptians abroad to become more influential in national projects, especially those specialized in sustainable development as the slogan of Egypt's Vision 2030, what are the challenges that they must overcome?

I mention as a first challenge the unstable currency rate, due to the global crisis and unprecedented inflation rates everywhere that no one can control. Even in Britain, the inflation rate is very high, and I remember a statement from a few days ago that even the current British Prime Minister's plan to reduce it will fail in 2024, and no one can predict what will happen.

✦ Unfortunately, the high inflation rate causes people to fear investing and cling to their savings, and Egypt responded to that by offering certificates with higher interest paid in advance up to 19% and 20% because that is what the investment market is looking for now, and the only way to establish projects. These certificates reassure investors' fears as they are safer investments than investing directly in projects, as evidenced by the fact that billions of pounds flowed into the banks immediately after Egypt announced investment certificates with 22% interest. The global crisis creates in people the idea of fear and hoarding rather than saving or investing, which does not allow for the establishment of projects. The second challenge is the bureaucracy and difficulty of procedures. The laws have been amended and improved to counter this problem, but the employees responsible for applying them still prolong the procedures unnecessarily, and therefore the people in charge of this work must be qualified. We are now in the digital age, and people must have training courses to eradicate computer illiteracy and be sufficiently prepared to learn new technologies. One of the problems that faced the new education system with the tablet was the ignorance of the teachers themselves of how to apply and use it, which is a complaint I received from my relatives and friends who were related to this matter, most of them are at an age that does not allow them to learn new technologies without intensive training. Therefore, the solution to this problem in my opinion is to train those in charge of the business with the technology necessary to manage it, and I am confident that this matter is taken into account but it needs time and material capabilities to apply it.

I pity His Excellency the President because of the dilapidated state that he found the country in when he took over its administration, without projects, land, roads, or agriculture, and it would have collapsed like Greece now had he not taken over its administration at this time. Greece had reached the stage of bankruptcy had it not been for the support of the European Union.

As for Egypt, it is a country of 100 million, which cannot bear famines or displacements. I believe that our Egyptian state is in the protection of God Almighty and that such calamities will never happen to it. I was entrusted some time ago with writing an article, and the journalist told me to pay attention to the topic of His Excellency President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi and the people's view of him and their support for him in the next stage, so I wrote the article entitled "President El-Sisi and the Idea of the Savior", as the people's love for him is not only related to the achievements that took place in the last decade but it goes back before anything to saving Egypt in a very critical period. We were like someone who saw his son drowning in the water and did not know how to swim to save him, then someone came and saved him, would we not be grateful to this person for the rest of our lives, regardless of what he did after that point? This is the source of our love for this man, that he saved our beloved country from collapse. When the Muslim Brotherhood took power, I was one of those who said that the homeland was lost without return, and I wrote on my Facebook page: "We belong to God and Him we shall return", and I decided in my heart not to return to Egypt again until I see their end.

But a blessing in disguise, their stupidity and greed for the leadership that they had long dreamed of getting over 80 years made them make many mistakes, so they destroyed themselves by themselves. Here is the idea of the savior, who we do not expect today to do everything alone, but we who are around him must be eager to help him. We must have in our schools and educational institutions the culture of our country and how we relate to it and invest in it, and we show these files to the child from an early age according to his comprehension, even if we allocate half an hour in the school day for this matter. If we have failed in our generations, let us raise for Egypt's rising generations that carry this national thought. Here abroad, we now see our children walking proudly carrying the flag of their country. It is a sight that makes me happy when I see the flag of Egypt

everywhere, at every hotel, school, and institution, whether in Alexandria, Cairo, or Sharm El Sheikh. This national identity must be raised in the rising generations, may God decree a matter that has been done.

I was very happy to have a dialogue with you, and I thank you for your precious time valuable opinions, and rich experiences.





FOUR GIRLS

Prof. Hanan Ahmed Aly, FEPS Acting Dean

Translated by: Mariam Ismail

She filled his heart, controlled his emotions, and occupied his thoughts.

As soon as the results of the final year of the Faculty of Engineering were announced, and they succeeded together, he flew to her house to ask for her hand.

Despite his modest financial means, his low social standing, and the lack of clarity of vision regarding his professional future, in the face of her insistence on him, her attachment to him, and her love for him, her father found no way but approval.

They were the happiest newlyweds, the most beautiful lovers, and the youngest couple.

Their life was called happiness, its law was understanding, and its description was harmony.

Her father employed them both in a small company. They suffered from hardship at the beginning of their lives. But with her wisdom, good behaviour, and careful management, she was able to face the demands of living.

With her good manners, the sweetness of her tongue, and the clarity of her mind, she was able to control his mind, so he would consult her about his affairs, trust her with his secrets, and involve her in his dreams.

After a short period, God blessed them with a beautiful baby girl. They named her Fajr. She was the source of hope in their souls and the source of happiness in their lives.

She was followed by a second child, whom they named Shorouk... because she shone their lives with goodness.

With his wife's support, advice, effort, and some of the money she inherited from her parents, he was able to establish a private company in his name.

As time passed, his success increased, his fame spread, and his money increased. Their conditions improved, and they moved to live in a larger house, more luxurious furniture, and more luxuries.

They had a third child, and her father named her Duha. When his wife asked him about the reason for the name, he said: God Almighty swore by Duha, which is the time before noon, the time when the sun prepares to rise to the top of the sky.

He looked at her, patted her on the shoulder, kissed her forehead, and said: And this is our life now... God has bestowed upon us many blessings... abundant money... strong health... and three beautiful flowers...

She smiled and said: I ask God to increase your wealth, grant you health, bless our flowers, grow beautiful plants in them, and bless them with good, caring, compassionate husbands like you.

In the face of the increasing burdens on her, she had no choice but to quit her job, devote herself to her daughters, and take care of her home.



Years passed, and the girls attended the best schools, wore the most luxurious clothes, and went to the most luxurious clubs.

Their mother raised them to have good morals, taught them to have good qualities, and taught them to excel academically.

Before she was forty years old, she gave birth to her fourth child, and her husband was very happy with her.

His wife said: After dawn, sunrise, and noon comes sunset.

He looked at her disapprovingly: No, the sun will not set in our lives.. It will be Asal.. the time of praise.. what comes after the afternoon and before the twilight..

Time passed, and Fajr graduated from university and got engaged to her colleague.. and her parents' happiness for her was indescribable, because she would repeat the story of their successful lives..

Shorouk was in the third year of university, Doha was in high school, and Asal was in the fourth year of primary school.

The wife noticed her husband's absent-mindedness, his absence from home for long periods, his frequent travels, his exaggerated interest in his appearance, his unwillingness to hear anything about his daughters, his abandonment of pampering his youngest daughter, Asal, his pardon of the rest of the daughters, his failure to respond to their requests, and the cancellation of many items of spending..

When his wife confronted him with evidence, facts, and evidence, he could not deny it.

-Have you gotten married after all this life? Have you given up on our love? Have you forgotten how I stood with you? Have you forgotten my sacrifice of quitting my job?

-I got married young, and I worked a lot.. I took on great responsibilities, and faced major problems.. My life passed, and my youth was wasted.. Don't I have the right to live with peace of mind.. and sleep soundly..

She looked at him, hot tears flowing from her eyeballs, and hot exhalation emanating from her lungs, and she pressed her burning chest with both hands.. and said: Did you marry someone who is only five years older than our daughter Fajr? Didn't you think about her fiancé's position? He might leave her.

She added: Did you not realize that this behavior might prevent the marriage of Shorouk and Duha? Haven't you thought about Asal's attachment to you, and her inability to stay away from you?

After gathering his belongings, he said: I did not commit a crime.. It is my right..

She gathered her courage and said: What about your responsibility towards the girls?

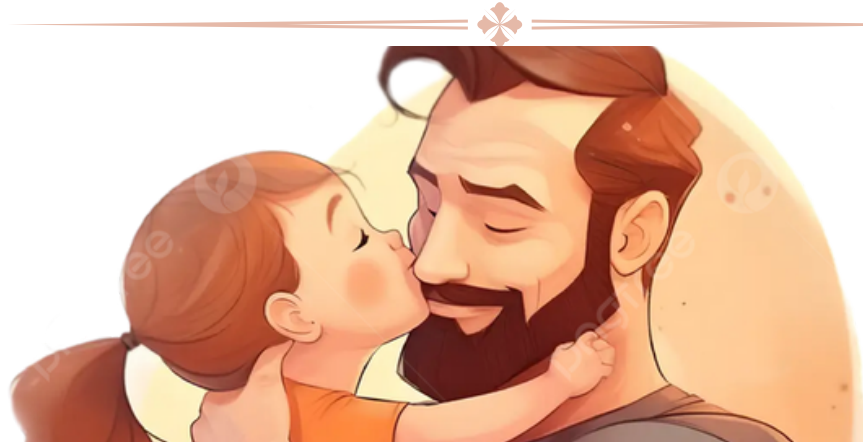
He became angry and said: You know that I have been working and spending on my education since I was ten years old... and my father did not help me with anything...

She said in a choked voice: "But they are girls."

He didn't answer her, and they left.

She said: This is how the sun of our lives set, and the night closed its curtains on our story.

He turned his face away from her and quickly left.



As soon as he closed the door behind him, his wife collapsed, his daughters cried, and his house became dark.

Then the laughter disappeared, and was replaced by tears.. The smile disappeared, and was replaced by brokenness.. The joy was gone, and in its place was sadness..

Days passed, and the months were bleak, and the wife fell into the clutches of many diseases.. Fajr was working day and night to complete the preparation of her house.. Shorouk was forced to work to help with the household expenses.. Doha gave up taking her high school lessons, and Asal left her school for a school with lower fees. .

One day, the mother and the girls agreed that each of them would send a message on the phone to the absent father, reminding him of a beautiful memory, and informing him of one problem she was facing...hoping that his heart would soften..

Asal began writing: My beloved father... Do you remember the cartoon movie that you watched with me in the cinema last year... And you told me at the time that you laughed from the heart... as you had never laughed before... Now the second part has started showing... Will you not accompany me to watch it?

Dad... I'm facing a big problem... I can't solve many of the puzzles in the fun book you brought me...

The mother wrote: My beloved husband... I have spent all that was left of my parents' inheritance... and sold all my jewellery... All that remains is the chain you gave me when we got married... I don't want to give it up... as your picture hangs on one side of it, and my picture on the other.

Our problems are many.. I will not bother you with them.. but my hope is that you do not leave our daughters a prey to poverty and need..

As for Fajr, she wrote to him: Father, do you remember the alarm clock that you brought for me so that I could set it to the time of the dawn prayer? You used to say that no one will wake me up but Fajr. Will your wife wake you up now?

My father, my income from my work is not enough to fulfil the arrangement that you agreed upon with my fiancé's father. My engagement is at risk of being broken. Please help me.

And Shorouk wrote: My dear father... I remind you that when you realized my talent in drawing... you brought me luxurious colours and asked me to draw a beautiful painting... so I painted you... because you are the most beautiful thing in my life...

Father, as you used to tell me what bothers me... I have been forced to work in a field that is far from my interests, and my employer is flirting with me... I am trying to stay away from him, but I am afraid of him... Maybe you can talk to him so he can stop...

As for his wife, she did not sleep that night. She was looking at her phone every moment, but he did not answer her. So she decided to overcome her illness, return to her work, and take care of her daughters.

Fajr woke up from her sleep and looked at her phone.. but she did not find a response.. she went to wake her mother.. and found her in the kitchen preparing the pancakes they loved..

-Mom, why did you leave your bed and go against what your doctor said?



We do not have the luxury of suffering from pain. Tell your fiancé's father to give us a period of time to implement what we agreed upon. I will work with all my might to complete your wedding's preparations. Here, Shorouk woke up sad because her father did not respond to her. Her mother embraced her and said: You will not go to this job again. Leave it immediately.. and look for another job that will give you experience in your field.

The smell of pancakes pervaded the place. Asal woke up and ran to the kitchen, saying: I love these pancakes. It has been a long time since you cooked them for us, mother.

Fajr asked her: Did my father answer you? She shook her head in denial.

Fajr patted her shoulder and said: Don't be sad. My fiancé and I will take you to the cinema.

The mother looked at her watch and shouted in worry: Where is Duha? She has not woken up yet. What happened to her? She was the most attached to her father. She looked at Shorouk: Go and wake her up.

-Duha.. Come on.. You will be late for the exam..

She opened her eyes with difficulty and called: Father, where did my father go? She looked at Doha, and she burst into tears, her sobs getting louder.

The mother ran quickly towards her, stroked her head, and asked: Were you dreaming of your father?

She explained, saying: He met me at school, and he made me understand what was difficult for me to understand, and he hugged me, saying: You are the most intelligent of your sisters.. I want you to join the Faculty of Engineering like me.. Shorouk asked her: What did you write to him?

She said: I told him that I would not ask him for anything like my mother and my sisters.. I just want to see him before my exam so that I feel reassured.. for him to hug me so that I feel safe.. for him to smile at me so that I yearn for hope..

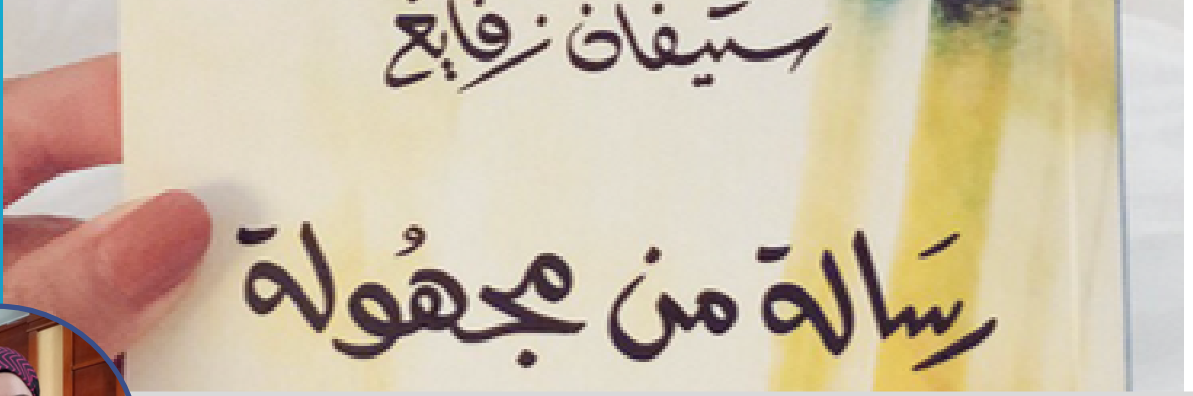
Her mother hugged her and said: Come on, I will accompany you to school.

She said sadly: "Will my father ever come?"

The mother replied: One day he may come with his head down, showing remorse, asking for forgiveness.

But after time passes, it will be too late, and the tenderness will disappear.

At that time, feelings will become withered, hearts will become dry, and souls will be angry.



A reading of the novella “A Letter from an Anonymous” by Stefan Zweig

By: Engi Khaled Ahmed

This month I finished the novella “A Letter from an Anonymous”; By the famous Austrian-Jewish writer, Steven Zweig, and it is my first experience with him, and I do not think it will be my last. I rated it four stars out of five. In fact, my high rating, which almost reaches the final grade, was never the result of my conviction in the novella or the motives of the unknown woman’s character, but rather the narrative and linguistic creativity that I came across.

Zweig has an amazing ability to penetrate a very complex female psyche with this wonderful way. He was able to prove to me that she was a woman of flesh and blood, and that he was not a male novelist who created her from his imagination. This is a real woman who embodied Zweig and spoke with his pen about the deepest depths of her soul.

The woman said at the end of her letter that she no longer believes in God or fate, and that she no longer believes in anything but in the hero. That hero was an arrogant and immoral novelist who spent his life accompanying women and having affairs with them. In fact, I see - as Engi- that this phrase actually summarized everything that happened in the novella.

When a person believes in a specific God, he is convinced of the sanctity of his measures, no matter how hard they are on him, and no matter how difficult they are for him to understand. He blames everyone but him, and hates everyone but him. It is always God who receives his forgiveness, his love, his gentle reproach, and his firm faith in his wisdom. This is how the unknown heroine was with her lover.

To her, he was not a man but a god. This explains the enslaving obsession she suffered from his one-sided love. It is a very firm faith that cannot be shaken by the most powerful storms and hurricanes. If that love of hers were a religion, she would be a hermit who fully deserved Paradise.

But the truth is that there is no god named after the hero of the novella "A Letter from Anonymous," and there is no religion named after her dangerous love for him. So, it's just an obsession. What woman would accept all these sacrifices for free? Or perhaps the return was the deep, hidden pleasure she received from this humiliation.

Considering the number of kind-hearted admirers who loved her in her adolescence, her stepfather and mother who loved her with everything within them, and the lovers who accepted with all affection and gratitude the body she gave them, she kicked them all in love for an unknown person who would never recognize her, for the sake of a torment she created with her own hands that God has no authority over her. Given all of this, this woman is called "masochismy"!

This is a woman who finds pleasure in suffering, and I do not think that a woman like that would arouse anyone's sympathy.

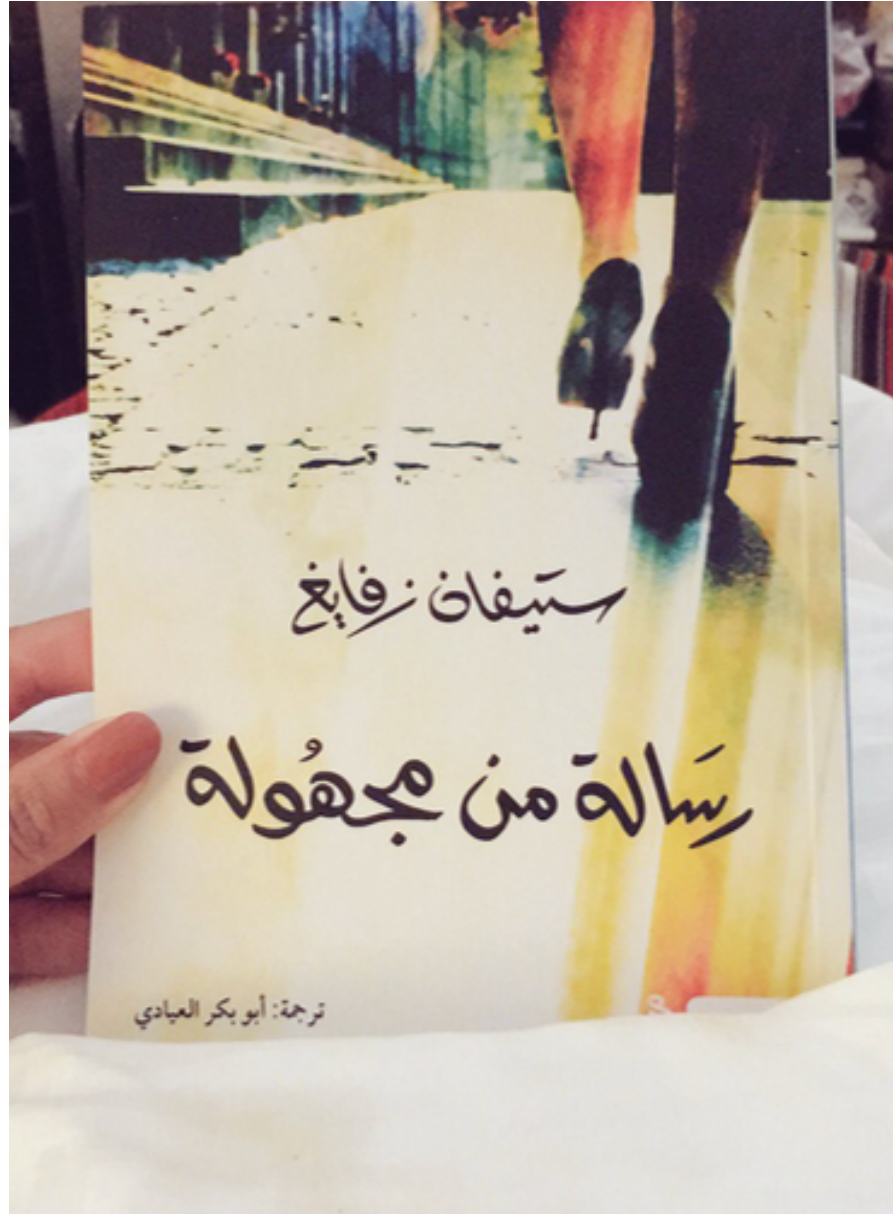
I didn't sympathize with her and I never will. Rather, with every story she tells about her pain, such as the night she gave birth to her child, or her having to sell her body to keep her son in a high status, or even the night of her son's death and her death, in all of these situations I did not sympathize with her, but rather gloated over her.

This is a woman who deserves the misery she lived through. She was not a brave woman and she did not love anyone. She was heartless and selfish. I thank God that he deprived her of her child, who would have grown up tormented between an unknown father and a crazy, prostitute mother.

On the other hand, when I put myself for a moment in the place of the hero who read all these calamities and knew that he can no longer atone for anything, I was overcome with goose bumps. How miserable a person is when he discovers the love of his life after it has been forgotten by death and oblivion. But he also deserves it. He was also a prostitute who accompanies women without restraint or restrictions. He is conceited with himself, his youth, his handsomeness, and his literary skill.

I think the novella shows the ugliness of multiple physical relationships; which makes a person an animal that does not remember or love, - although I believe that animals almost remember their lovemaking partner. The important thing is that I was disgusted with him as well, and I saw the anonymous letters sent to him as a harsh punishment for him if he had a conscience that would hurt him for what he had done to this crazy mistress.

However, Zweig's language is excellent, his aesthetic expressions beyond description. He put me among the heroes, in the hands of the hero and the heroine's message. That's why I see him as creative, no doubt. This will not be my last experience, even though I will never stop talking about his heroes, with all their virtues and faults, whenever I read him.





The college holds a symposium entitled Youth and Future Challenges, with the participation of Dr. Ali El-Din Hilal

**Youssef Mousa - Political science -
Yusuf.musa2020@feps.edu.eg**

On Tuesday, November 21, 2023, in the Zaki Shafi'i Amphitheater in the building of the Faculty of Economics and Political Science, Cairo University, a dialogue was unique in its kind and not a lecture that brought together Professor Dr. Ali El-Din Hilal - the former Minister of Youth and Sports and one of the most prominent innovators in political science in Egypt and Arab World and former Dean of the Faculty of Economics and Political Science, Cairo University - and among the faculty members and more than 350 male and female students from the college in an episode entitled "Youth and the Challenges of the Future." Dr. Hanan Ali, Acting Dean of the College, welcomed Dr. Ali El-Din Hilal. She began her talk about some of the distinguished points presented by Dr. Ali throughout his tenure as Dean of the College - the period of the Golden Age - and the most notable of them were (Day of Excellence - Simulation Models - Period of Activity within the College), all of which were achievements that were implemented. for the first time .



Dr. Ali began his speech by praying that God would grant victory to the people of Palestine in the recent Gaza events , asking God Almighty to forgive them and heal the injured. Arab youth,

especially economics and political science students, have a role to play in this stage, completely rejecting the idea of silence and not expressing opinions and change.

Dr. Ali continued his talk about the college, speaking about the names of some of the halls within the college that have the names of former deans. He calls on students to the importance of familiarizing themselves with the history of the college in order to increase the value of love and belonging to the college. It is a college that has given a lot to the Egyptian state since 1960 until now in many fields in various fields. Ministries and all branches of the Egyptian state. In most cases, you find college graduates in Egyptian embassies abroad. Even in the political axis - which includes 12 individuals - within the National Dialogue, half of those who managed the political axis for all of Egypt are college professors.



As for the title of the episode and the focus on youth and the challenges they face, Dr. Ali focused on three basic elements: (education - development - participatory), and Dr. Ali explained that there is a thread that combines the three elements.

Education and its value. Education is not just information, but the importance of these courses lies in the way of thinking (how do I think),

following the scientific method of thinking, and having a logical approach in analyzing matters. The method of analysis is the remaining value of any educational process. Students' participation in lectures by commenting and expressing their point of view on a specific topic is good education.

Education contributes to building an integrated human personality, as the majors within the college are linked to each other. The economy is a set of decisions made by politicians. People walk on their stomachs, so the economy is the ruler's primary task. There must also be an understanding of statistics, government administration, state administration, use of computing and dealing with the Internet.

Dealing, interacting, and participating with others each contribute to the formation of a person's personality, and to learning about other points of view. The college is like a gateway that helps students enter the arena of life. The college makes all sources of knowledge available to the extent that the faculty members benefit, and then comes the individual's decision to participate.



The second term is development. There is political, economic, and social development. They are three sides of one truth, different sides of the same coin. Society consists of (culture - economy - politics). When these three elements meet, development is achieved, and when it continues for a long period, it is called sustainable development. Sustainable development cannot be achieved without popular participation, and without the involvement of citizens, especially in small villages, where citizens transform from recipients of development to participants in making it, observers of its implementation, and evaluators of its performance.

Sustainable development is achieved through educating women. Societies move forward by educating women. There are many examples (America, China, Brazil, Argentina). There is a major role for women.

Regarding the third and final term (participatory), participatory politics, participatory economics, participatory budgeting, and participatory planning. These are all terms that deal with the process of inclusion and grassroots participation. This does not mean members of parliaments, but rather the involvement of people in the decisions that affect their lives. The more people participate, the more they will care about it, preserve it, and correct the mistakes within it.

The education process is a continuous process. If a person stops learning, he dies, and therefore development is achieved through learning. The essence of the idea is participatory. Through participation, the humanity of the person is achieved, the person's self-knowledge of his strengths and weaknesses in order to work on developing them and developing his own skills, through This engagement is self-fulfilling.



In conclusion, Dr. Ali stressed that there are differences between generations and that each generation must make a choice because it is affected by the environment and context in which it grew up. Wisdom is the communication of generations through the transfer of experiences between different generations. The current generation must communicate with previous generations, and participate in improving the conditions of the nation through the positive participation of each individual with the capabilities he possesses. The individual must participate for development - for self-expression - to advance societies and achieve change.



Gaza: a ticking bomb

Abdelrahman Sakr

Second year - Economics - English section

In contrast to what the western media is trying to spread, Hamas is not the one behind the current situation, and it does represent the will of the Palestinians. In fact, both Hamas rise to power and the 7th of Oct. were inevitable. They were made so by Israel's actions that pushed the Palestinians to desperation, making Gaza, indeed, a ticking bomb, which exploded on the 7th of Oct.

The fact that even Antonio Guterres, the UN secretary general acknowledged that illustrates the extent of how Israel was responsible for the current situation. "It is important to also recognize the attacks by Hamas did not happen in a vacuum.

The Palestinian people have been subjected to 56 years of suffocating occupation," Guterres said. To understand why that is, you need to go back to the Oslo agreement in 1993. It stated that in five years, a Palestinian state and an Israeli one would stand in peace next to each other with fixed borders that would be determined in another final deal.

The deal was vague and incomprehensive. It left the greatest issues, like Jerusalem and the borders, to be defined later. The only achievement was a weak and symbolic authority that would rule over Gaza and the West Bank.

A few deals that defined economic and security relations were struck later, but none of them was supposed to be a final deal. The final one was supposed to be concluded by 1999. This led to a sense of urgency.

Israel wanted to build as much settlements as possible in order to have as much land as possible by 1999.

The numbers of settlers increased in this period by 58% in the West Bank alone, from 116,000 to 183,000. In 1993, the settler's proportion of the Israeli population was 2%, today it is 5%.

The result was that Palestinians have lost because of Oslo agreement more than what they seemed to have gained. And the final deal never came because Israel had no interest in having one. Why have peace when you are the one to gain from conflict. The result was that in the West bank, Palestinians were being kicked out of their homes and land in order to build new settlements. Also, they were not given the economic promises that they had been promised. This led to pushing Palestinians to totally lose hope of any real peace and losing faith in the Palestinian authority.

Thus, they elected Hamas, which rejected the Oslo agreement, in 2006, when the last legislative elections were held. This was supposed to be a warning to Israel.

But Israel responded by imposing an economic blockade on Gaza after Hamas seized control in 2007, which resulted in the isolation of Gaza and the deterioration of the economic situation. The unemployment level reached approximately 50%. GDP per capita shrank by an average of 2.8% annually in the period between 2007 and 2022.

Today, just 28% of Palestinians support the two-states solution, compared to 53% 10 years ago, and half of them wants to dissolve the Palestinian authority.

A recent poll by the Palestinian Center for Policy and Survey Research reported that half of Palestinians living in Gaza and the West Bank would vote for Hamas over the Palestinian Authority. The group's popularity grew after a two-week conflict with Israel in 2021, with roughly 75% of those polled viewing Hamas as safeguarding the Al-Aqsa Mosque and other Muslim holy sites in East Jerusalem. But not only does Hamas represent the people, but they are, indeed, the people.

That is why president Sisi refuses to allow the migration of the people of Gaza into Sinai. Simply because they will launch their operations from there.

Talking of purging Hamas will require purging Gaza as well, which Israel has been doing for the last 2 weeks. Also, Hamas is the reason why Israel is not building settlements in Gaza. It is actually the reason why Israel cannot control Gaza, as it forced Israel out of the strip in 2005. Hamas is, indeed, the shield of Gaza. On the 27th of Oct it countered the long-awaited land assault on Gaza, costing Israel's forces severe losses.

According to Douglas Macgregor, a retired U.S. Army colonel and a former senior adviser at the Pentagon, Hamas managed to stop Israeli and US special forces from entering Gaza." Some of our special ops forces and Israeli special ops forces went into Gaza to reconnoiter, to plan for where they might want to go to free hostages and make an impact and they were shot to pieces and took heavy losses, as I understand," said Macgregor. Now for the 7th of Oct. operation.

First, Israel called it upon itself. The economic consequences of Israel's actions pushed the Palestinians to explode. With no work, land, or dignity, you reach a point where you prefer dying over living. Why not take few Israelis with you while doing so? It brings a feeling that you are fighting back and that your suffering is justified. Second, it is logical. If stability is bad for Palestinians, as Israel uses a long-term strategy to make more gains on the expense of Palestinians with the stability peace brings and without much fuss from the international community, why should Palestinians seek stability?

The attack has caused a depreciation in Israel's currency, pushed a lot of Israelis to return to their mother country, caused labor shortages, as the 350 thousand mobilized equal 8% of the workforce, caused its credential ranking at Fitch and Moody's to be supervised, affected its stocks market, and it increased tensions with neighbors.

But most importantly, the hope to make the deal that US was trying to broker between Saudi Arabia and Israel is totally gone. Third, it is justified! Israel is the aggressor in this case, and the Palestinians have the right to response with any means possible. And the right to defend the self is not recognized for aggressors and occupational forces. The international law also considers blockading a country an act of war, which Israel has done with Gaza since 2007. Be a nationalist, an Islamist, a man of law and diplomacy, Hamas is the one defending itself. Fourth, the 7th of Oct. brought the case back to life. The conflict was losing attention in the Arab countries and has become less significant to its regimes. In 2020, 4 Arab countries have normalized relations with Israel. Also, others have been more willing to cooperate with it.

A plan to create a new trading route that goes to Europe through Israel included Saudi Arabia and UAE, the scheme most likely won't see the light. Overall, the conflict will affect the economic outlook and stability for the region as a whole, including Israel. But while Israel will lose from it the most, Gaza has nothing to lose!



The Language of War

Noor Khaled - Economics - Senior
noor.awad2020@feps.edu.eg

Some say not to argue with those who refuse to listen for it is only a waste of time and energy because those who refuse to acknowledge that there may be room for doubt in their thoughts and beliefs will always use any opposing views and twist them to fit their narrative. However, in times of war - times where people's voices can save the lives of innocent people murdered by hatred and greed - every word counts. If done right, a single speech can move a nation. To harness the power of words, the right vessel must be used, and to get through to people who refuse to listen, you must play the game according to their rules. Hence, in this article, I will be going over two different interviews that left a strong impression on the audience to illustrate two ways the guests were able to make impactful arguments.

Digging through the seemingly endless mounds of information to extract the truth can be very difficult, especially when most "trusted" news sources seem to be biased to only one side of the narrative. Coming on a talk show to argue your case with facts seems futile

when the hosts only want to shine the light on a single angle, and that's what Egyptian comedian and doctor Bassem Youssef knew walking into the Piers Morgan interview. Equipped with witty sarcasm and a sharp tongue, Bassem knew exactly what needed to be done to garner the attention of a global audience. Bassem played along, using the leading Pro-Israel narrative as a vessel, to get his point across. Although his answers weren't always precise during the first interview, they were provoking enough to stir an audience into doing more research on the conflict. During his second interview, Bassem was much more prepared with evidence-backed arguments and a much calmer style intended to provide clear cut information rather than drive in attention. Not all kinds of attention were in Bassem's favor though as many criticized his first interview for his attitude and the kind of language he used, but, nevertheless, it is undeniable that he was able to break through too an audience that wouldn't have otherwise listened.

Bassem Youssef's interview was not the



only one that left an impact. Emily Callahan's, an American nurse who was able to evacuate Gaza, interview with Anderson Cooper of CNN was another great example. Instead of using provoking sarcasm, Callahan was equipped with a harrowing story and a concise way of presenting her argument. In this interview, Callahan recounts the 26 days of war she witnessed during her time in Gaza, describing in vivid details what she and her crew had to do to survive and the horrifying imagery of death and despair that surrounded her. Cooper, on the other hand, did not miss the chance to try and ask leading questions that paints Palestinians in a negative light. In response to Callahan's description of the burned and amputated children that showed up to the hospital and the status of the shelter where the staff resided, Cooper asks, "In situations where there are tens of thousands of people and it is a war and people can't feed their kids, things get strange very fast and things get tough very very fast and people turn on each other. You saw that up close?" Callahan proceeds to explain that the people coming to the hospital were justifiably angry because they have been losing loved ones left and right and have grown desperate trying to save those who remain – deflecting his implications and justifying the cause of the unrest. After that, Cooper, again,

tries to imply that civilians were a threat to the U.S. doctors and nurses by asking, "You said if it wasn't for national staff you think you would've been killed by people who were just desperate." To which, Callahan reiterates, "We either would have starved to death or ran out of water. They were the ones that negotiated all of that," highlighting the fact that the civilians were not going to harm her but the lack of essential needs while simultaneously painting a picture of the national nurses a staff as heroes of this war. Callahan's interview was brilliant because she chose her words carefully to bypass censorship, while deflecting Cooper's attempts at dehumanizing Palestinian civilians.

When people can't trust news outlets or even academics anymore, it takes someone with wit and a provoking tongue to get through to people. It seems like the best strategy to get your voice across and be heard is to create a buzz, and not any buzz, but one narrated by someone with a story strong enough to shake people or provoking words laced with bitter truths. At the end of the day, while there are many people who remain wilfully ignorant of what is going on, the narrative is slowly starting to shift, and even if it will only stir the heart of a single person, it is always better to speak up about injustice when you can rather than choose to be silent because you "know" you won't be heard.





GAZA SCENTED WITH DEATH AND DESTRUCTION

Mariam Ismail, 4th level Political Science
mariam.ismail2020@feps.edu.eg

“Condemnation of single incidents without realizing it is systemic, institutional and strategically executed ethnic cleansing is killing more people than bullets are.”

These are my words, the words I used to write in this same magazine over and over. Because of these words, I have been asked to speak up, to talk, and to tell my opinion. Questions surrounded me since the 7th of October wondering why I haven't spoken yet. So here I am trying to fit into new words what I really feel since the start of the war on Gaza, because my old words aren't enough anymore or to be more specific they have been proven right so I need new ones.

Honestly, I have spent a lot of time thinking where should I start and what should I say. Shall I talk about the hypocrisy? Shall I talk about the ascending numbers of killed, injured, missing? Shall I talk about the crystal clear war crimes? Shall I tell the world how I was correct to voice the Palestinians struggles since day one? At last, I came to a realization, it is not indifference or frustration that are keeping me from talking, it is disappointment. I, a simple citizen of the world, am disappointed not in a specific state or responsible or population, but disappointed in humanity as whole. So let me start by stating the obvious: humanity has failed.

It had failed the moment we started getting used to the images of dead children, not now, but years ago. It failed the moment we let incidents of killing pass by with just a short frustration and agitation. Humanity didn't fail today, it failed 75 years ago and keeps failing more and more since then.

Don't be mistaken though, this violence didn't start 75 years ago, it has been rooted in the Zionist ideology long before the occupation. It had always bewildered me, how Muslims have always been criticized for relying too heavily on their belief and faith while there's an entire state built on religious myths, along with innocents' blood of course. On the 28th of October, Benjamin Netanyahu referenced the Torah by saying that they are fighting Amalek in Gaza just like God has ordered before. The Amalek or Amalekites were described in the Jewish myths as a nomadic people who roamed the desert and inhabited the mountains and valleys. They practiced hunting and war, and they did not hesitate to block the road and steal spoils and caravans. Each of them was approximately as tall as a cedar tree, and they ate the livers of their enemies. According to the prime minister, these mythical beings are equivalent to the children and the innocent civilians being currently bombed in Gaza.

I can't really wrap my mind around the idea that some people out there can see a lone shaking child with fear in his eyes and really look at him the say 'Oh yes, he definitely is an Amalekite'. The thing is, we shouldn't be surprised at all because at the end of the day these people believe in killing their enemies' children, women, elders, burning their homes and lands; all that considering they see their enemies as humans in the first place not merely "inhuman animals".

We are obviously facing a genocide here, however it is important to note that Israel isn't erasing the Palestinians through bombardments, they have many indirect ways of inflicting death upon them. Firstly, the whole excuse of fighting Hamas is partly true, in a way Israel is trying to kill any potential of resistance that might arise from the Palestinians of Gaza. At the end of the day, we can't deny that Hamas initially started as a resistance movement trying to fight back occupation, Hamas is an ideology, and ideas don't die they're just reborn; Israel is trying to get rid of Hamas, and prevent the rebirth of any similar ideology by getting rid of all the roots.

Additionally, Israel have been bombing all sorts of basic services and lifeline in Gaza. This have 2 repercussions; on one side they are bombing aid trucks, water reservoirs and blocking water sources with cement to increase the rhythm of death by dehydrating and starving the Palestinians. On the other side, they are targeting hospitals, schools, universities and bakeries; to assure that 'if' the bombing stops restoration will be almost impossible. Simply put, in Gaza if you don't die by the bombs you'll die of hunger and thirst, and even if you survive both you'll be living in a dead city with no hope for rebirth.

In these dire conditions, it is often forgotten how menstruation don't stop for women. Women and girls are either using very unhygienic means to deal with their bleeding or even worse taking pills to chemically stop their periods. Also, at the start of the genocide there were 50,000 pregnant woman, 5000 of which should have given birth last month. Among those who survived and did give birth, many had post labor complications and bleeding. Usually, these cases can be dealt with, however due to the lack of equipment doctors had to preform hysterectomies on many cases. This is important because it showcases how these inhuman conditions are literally pushing women to inflict infertility upon themselves.



Lastly, it is known that Palestinians are a proud people that cannot be easily broken. Therefore, Israel is trying to kill their moral and any will within them to fight back or resist. To ensure this there are many ways, Israel haven't been giving them enough time between bombing so they aren't able to retrieve the wounded and injured from under the rubbles, Palestinians are left to survive with flies and the scent of corpses surrounding them, they are asked to provide list of names of their dead because the west don't believe the numbers, Palestinian children are holding press conferences and filming videos begging for the bombing to stop, journalists have to film the horrible images of their dead to prove that they're actually dying and on top of it all Israel cut the connection from Gaza to stop them from giving their news to the world and also to deprive them of seeing how people around the world are supporting them.

All of this is just a glimpse of what have been happening for more than a month. I used to push people to speak up and talk about Palestine, but this time it's different. This time we talked and the world heard very well, but at the end the world chose to ignore their pleas because Palestinians aren't perceived as humans anymore. I am writing in a time where the scent of death and destruction have surpassed Gaza to reach all of our noses, where the sound of screams and pleas are stuck in our ears that no music can make it fade, where the pictures of dead children can't be erased from our brains from the moment we wake to our dreams or shall I say nightmares.

I wished to be capable of decrypting their suffering, but no amount of words will be enough to describe the hell that broke loose in Gaza since last month. All I can say is, personally, I have lost all faith in humanity the moment the world decided to stop considering Palestinians as humans. Every single person living this genocide, standing by, doing nothing should feel ashamed and question his humanity. Years will pass, this will become history, and one day, we will all be held responsible for letting this be, and I won't by any means exempt myself from the responsibility, because even my words aren't enough to face such a demonic entity.





Bad luck or bad policies

Abdelrahman Sakr

Second year - Economics - English section

According to a report published by World Bank Group in 2020, there is a 4th wave of debt accumulation in EMDEs as total debt has risen in more than 70 percent of EMDEs in each region and total debt-to-GDP ratios have risen in almost 80 percent of EMDEs. By 2022, debt-to-GDP ratio in EMDEs had reached a new record of 254%.

Officials in these countries have been blaming their luck. They are partly right. Merely recovering from the pandemic, they were hit hard by the war in Ukraine. Fuel and grain prices soared, putting more pressure on their budgets. But the most troubling effect was rising interest rates, however. Grain prices have already fallen to below war-levels and Brent oil prices have returned to two digits. On the other hand, the Fed has been raising interest rates for the past year and is expected to keep them high for a while. This has affected the heavily indebted EMDEs severely. It has raised financing costs for them and put more pressure on their currencies.

Root cause

But it is not their luck that is broken, their policies are. The 4th wave shares the same pattern with the previous waves. Governments had been tempted by low global interest rates to the extent that they borrowed in amounts that exceed their ability to repay, meaning they paid their old debts by taking new ones,

and they scrambled once interest rates had risen again. Given that their bonds and treasuries are riskier, they price their interest rates based on the Fed. This implies that the more excessively you borrow, the more you will be affected by the changes in the US interest rate. An analysis by the economist last February implied the same thing. It has forecasted Egypt to be the second most affected government by the hike interest rates. This was based on its debt-to-income ratio of 4 and percentage points of change in its interest rates from Q42019-Q42022. And in an analysis by Bloomberg in last September Egypt was the second most country at risk of debt crisis -the first was war-torn Ukraine- due to factors including public debt and interest costs. Egypt was severely affected by the war and the pandemic, the post-pandemic opening to be precise- because they led to high inflation in the US. Since the Fed started raising interest rates Egypt has been struggling with an external debt crisis, two devaluations of its currency, and huge shortage in foreign currency. This is not a coincidence, of course. All of them are mainly because of bad policies that led to high exposure to changes in the Fed's interest rates.

The First policy is excessive external borrowing. In a research paper published in Feb 2022, just one month before the Fed started

raising interest rates, a debt vulnerability analysis was conducted by researchers at World Bank group. Egypt's debt was in the group with least resiliency and highest exposure to debt risk. Egypt has been accumulating huge piles of external debt since 2015. Since then, its external debt has doubled 4 times, reaching \$160bn in 2022, equivalent to 37% to GDP, compared to 17% in 2013. And in order to borrow all this money, Egypt had to offer high real interest rates for investors- the highest, indeed. The fact that debt service payments have reached 60% of the budget and that they have surpassed the debts themselves tells us how excessive government's borrowing was. Most of this money has been spent on mega projects and infrastructure, which did not lead to any significant growth that would generate more income that would compensate for the cost of borrowing these debts. Thus, most of debt repayments were actually financed from new debts and not increased revenues. Everything looked stable for a while since interest rates were stable. However, a new crisis was looming as Egypt's excessive borrowing has limited its capacity to absorb a rise in the Fed's interest rate, which caused its external debt repayments to rise from around \$15bn in 2022 to \$19bn in 2022. According to forecasts, its expected to surge by \$10bn in 2024, reaching \$29bn. The second policy is depending on volatile sources of foreign currency while neglecting industrial and agricultural exports. The government depended mainly on hot cash, gulf states deposits, and hydrocarbons exports, tourism, foreign workers' remittances for foreign currency. Of those, only gulf states deposits are involatile- so far- for political reasons. Hot cash, which Egypt depended on the most, has escaped as soon as the Fed raised interest rates, sparking a portfolio investment outflow calculated at \$20 billion. They did not return, though Egypt has secured a deal with IMF- a signal of assurance for investors- and ECB has raised interest rates, but these two measures failed to attract them back because

inflation has surged in Egypt, reaching 40%, due to the devaluation of currency, which led to negative real interest rates. Regarding hydrocarbons, exports are limited by the huge consumption of Egypt, which leaves little to be exported, and revenues are volatile Egypt also depended on Israel by importing gas and exporting it as LNG. But the production of Egypt's largest gas field has slumped recently, leading to power cuts, and Israel has stopped gas imports. Revenues from tourism slumped because of the pandemic and the war. Foreign workers' remittances decreased as the margin between the official value of the dollar and its value in the black market widened. Meanwhile, Egypt exports remained between \$25bn and \$30bn from 2014 till 2021, and only surged to \$43.9bn in 2022 due to the surge of gas prices, which did not compensate for growing borrowing costs and the loss of foreign currency from other sources. Egypt used to depend on these sources to pay its external debts interest. But as the current account (Exports+ remittances- imports) was already in deficit, and since foreign direct investment remained stable and humble since 2012, Egypt depended on hot cash the most to fill the gap from 2017 to 2021, which Dr. Mohamed Moait, the Egyptian minister of finance, has admitted it was a mistake. Had the government worked on increasing industrial and agricultural exports, it would have managed to secure a relatively more stable source of foreign currency, decrease its current account deficit, decrease its funding gap, reduce its exposure to changes in Fed's interest rate by depending less on hot cash. These vulnerabilities reacted with each other making the perfect formula for an external debt crisis. Excessive borrowing led to a projected deficit of 30\$bn, according to Reuters, as borrowing costs increased, which Egypt's ability to finance by borrowing is limited because of high financing costs. And depending on volatile sources of foreign currencies caused a sudden huge shortage in dollars, which Egypt needs to pay for external debt repayments. Thus, the currency was devalued twice and restrictions on imports have been placed as Egypt is in dire need of

dollars. These by turn led to record-high inflation.

The rocky road ahead

Whatever road Egypt chooses, it will be rocky. The worst is yet to come. Egypt's external debt repayments are expected to peak in 2024, rising by 10\$bn from around \$19bn in 2023 to \$29bn. That is 85% of its \$34.4bn foreign reserves, most of which is composed of gulf deposits. Some options are available, most of them with high costs. The first is another devaluation, which Egypt is entitled to if it wants to get another tranche from its \$3bn deal with IMF. The last one did not do much, however, and inflation is already at 38%. But it seems the most appealing one to the government. Since Mr. Abdelfatah El Sisi rose to power in 2014, the currency has been devalued 3 times in 10 years. The devaluation is actually inevitable. Along with having tremendous external debt repayments, Egypt has a funding gap caused by persistent deficit in its current account that used to be filled with hot cash. Either the government weakens the currency, or it uses its reserves to protect it, which is not an option since, as mentioned before, most of Egypt's foreign reserves are gulf states' deposits, which means Egypt cannot use them to support the EGP. The next devaluation is matter of how much and when. According to Mr. Ziad Dauod of Bloomberg, it is only a matter of time. Another one is selling state and military owned companies to foreign investors, which is also another condition for receiving more money from the IMF. So far, the government has sold assets worth \$1.9bn and is planning to shift another \$5bn by June 2024. Though it would provide some dollars in the short run it is a bad one for the long run as shareholders will withdraw their profits outside of the country. Selling to local investors would have been more

suitable if Egypt was not in dire need of dollars. Others suggest unifying the budget. According to Carnegie endowment for international peace, a think tank, there are 59 state-owned economic authorities operating across 12 sectors with independent budgets that, in total, equal the entire state budget. These authorities could have helped by transferring profits to the state budget, but they have been losing for a while and actually rely on the state budget to fund their gap. There are also special slush funds that belong to ministries and government agencies. These funds are not oversighted and obscure. According to estimates, from 2014, they total \$9.4bn. Moreover, there are the tax-exempt military owned enterprises, whose finances are not oversighted as well. According to the president, Mr. Abdelfatah El Sisi, they accounted for 2% of the Egyptian economy in 2016, which most likely has increased significantly since then. Though it would surely help, no one knows how much help it can offer as these funds are obscure. The fact that some of them are losing also limits how much can help.

If things globally get worse, the results will be catastrophic. Say, another conflict or crisis that would lead to higher or longer inflation in the US or disturbance among investors happened, Egypt's economy will suffer much more. The conflict between Israel and the Palestinian resistance has already weighted its pressure on Egypt by increasing oil prices and damaging its tourism sector. Israel also cut off gas exports to Egypt, which led to longer gas cuts, further undermining the performance of the economy, as it tries to increase pressures on President Sisi to let Israel force migrate the people of Gaza to Sinai. In order for Egypt to recover, it needs prices in the US to cool first and the Fed to lower interest rates. For the meantime, Egypt needs to take hard and painful measures, but fast.