

(*Last week we posted an article by Brother Milad Yacoub, a young Egyptian Assumptionist entitled "Christian and Arab -- Is It Possible to be Both?" In the present interview Brother Milad shares several observations on his country, the current political situation, and his own dreams.)*

Question 1: Br. Milad, you are an Egyptian Christian who is now living in France. Do you still have family members in Egypt and how often are you able to visit?

My two parents live in Cairo, Egypt, 15 minutes away from the pyramids. My brother and his wife, expecting their second baby, are back in Egypt after several years spent in Qatar. I am always in contact with my family via phone and Internet and I go back there every two years.



Question 2: Have you heard from them since the current uprising has occurred and, if so, what

are they saying about the situation?

During the crisis period, we were in contact daily. Every night we discussed the evolution of the situation. Some days were full of hope, others with fright. In the beginning, security was lacking and they feared that robbers would break into their flat. But the day when Mubarak announced his resignation, all fears turned to joy.

Question 3: From your experience, could you help our readers understand the background of this uprising?

Mubarak came to power in 1981. All young generations, which represent more than 50% of the population, don't know any president other than him. Mubarak's regime was founded on big lies, saying that it is democratic and transparent but in reality it was corrupt, claiming that no one other but Mubarak was fit to lead the country despite being 82 years old. With Internet and some press freedom, many people started to understand those lies and got connected. People massively boycotted all elections. Mubarak kept saying that Egypt was in the best possible situation thanks to his regime, but people started to have real aspirations for freedom and democracy. Blogs, Facebook and Twitter allowed many young people to think together. After the most recent events in Tunisia, suddenly more young people started to believe that change could be brought soon via organized and massive protests.

Question 4: What do you think about the current resolution of the conflict?

I am full of joy and hope. Protestors wouldn't accept half measures and Mubarak had to accept this, but till the end he seemed not to understand. It is not only him as a person but the entire corrupted regime that ended with him. Now the country can start a new page in its history with a new constitution and a better system. No one can give people democracy, neither their own governors nor a foreign state. Only people themselves can achieve real democracy. What happened in Egypt is a real peaceful and civilized revolution from the grassroots.



