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Audio Feature Draft Script

LEAD-IN: This audio feature aims to document my aunt’s, Moushira Saleh, experience in the two political parties in Egypt. The Democratic Front party during Mubarak’s regime in 2006 and the Free Egyptians party after the 2011 revolution.

*MS SB: Like now when I remember these things, I feel like, Oh my god, how or how did I face all this? You know, why did I face all this action? 10:48*

*Fade in Music: The snow garden by architect.*

That was my aunt Moushira Saleh, my father’s younger sister and one of the reasons why I love politics.

As far as I remember I have always been passionate about politics and I feel it's been instilled in me because of my family.

My aunt was a part of two political parties in Egypt. The Democratic Front party from 2007 until the beginning of 2009 and the Free Egyptians party after the 2011 revolution.

*Fade out Music: The snow garden by architect.*

*Fade in Music: Last Night by Landsman Duets.*

So I decided I wanted to talk to her about her political involvement because even though I've always known she worked in political parties, I realized I don’t much of the details

*NS SB: Are you ready? 00:00*

*MS SB: Yes I am. 00:04*

*Fade in Music: The air escaping by K4*

In 2007 my aunt at 30 years of age became a founding member of the Democratic Front party where she was appointed as Youth committee coordinator in Alexandria.

*MS SB: I have been raised in a family that has always been politically aware. And my mom and dad were outspoken in the matters of the, you know, criticizing the regime and so on and so forth.That was the first reason, the second reason was that I have been so active for many years, whether by doing scout activities or charity activities. 01:35.*

*Fade in Music: The snow garden by architect.*

My aunt joined and came the reaction of her family AKA my grandparents and my father.

*MS SB: When I told them actually that I'm going to join the party they joined the party with me because they they became also founding members and they applied to be members in the political party. And actually, they always joined and participated in the activities and. And your dad, my brother Yasser was was very active and he was actually elected by the members in alexandria to represent them within the high umm how do you say it 12:22*

*Yasser Saleh SB: In the beginning it was like I was doing it like hardly*

*but after that I get in the work of this party and I start to excited about and I start to work on it so I get in the beginning I was in the head the of the media committee and after that I was working and I get nominated or I get elected as the representative of alexandria in the parliament of the party for the whole on the whole country.*

So, my aunt and father were doing really well in the party but when it came to my aunt as a young woman in a highly masculine place she faced a lot of struggles.

*Fade out Music: The snow garden by architect.*

*SB MS: An incident that happened, I remember. That one time one of the members, he told me, like he was really, really angry because I was, of course, I have my way, you know, in saying my opinions and I think I was talking in a very confident way and this really upset them. This group of men and I remember this guy who tried to be, you know, a mediator between me and his and this older group, and he told me, like, you have to and you're a girl and you're so young. You shouldn't talk to us like this. 09:51.*

*Fade in Music: The snow garden by architect.*

After multiple incidents Moushira felt drained by the whole process.

*MS SB: I was very active until 2008 or two beginning of 2009, and then I tried to, you know, take a few steps back. 13:44*

After stepping back from the political party my aunt decided she needed to go back to something she loves, scouting where she traveled to India in 2010 while political tensions in Egypt were quickly rising.

*MS SB: I was in Poona India and I started receiving messages and I saw footages on Facebook and my friends were calling me sending me messages and saying that things are going crazy, the police is everywhere and there were so many people on demonstrations, thousands of people were gathering in Tahrir Square on Tuesday evening, and they were shouting and they wanted, you know, to overthrow the regime. And they said, “Al Shaa’b yoreed iskat el nizam”. 24:20.*

NAT Sound: Egyptians protesting.

So my aunt resigned from her job in India and took the first flight home back to egypt

*MS SB: On the first of February I was in the streets with my colleagues from the Democratic Front party and everyday we went on demonstrations until the 11th of February when Mubarak was ousted. 31:45.*

*Fade out Music: The snow garden by the Architect.*

*Fade In Music: Wolf Moon by Unicorn Heads.*

NAT Sound: Mubarak resigning.

After the revolution in May 2012 my aunt was approached by the former members of the Democratic Front party.

*MS SB: And tell me about the Free Egyptians party. It is a liberal party founded by many you know many Egyptian public figures mostly business men it was Naguib Sawiris one of the very important most important founding member. 32:18.*

This time around my aunt had a bigger position: she was the coordinator of the Free Egyptians party in the city of Alexandria.

*MS SB: Again I was clueless but I felt like people trusted me so I felt I had to do it. 33:37.*

*Fade out Music: Wolf Moon by Unicorn Heads.*

*Fade in Music: Access Road 138 by Trailhead.*

And with a bigger position came bigger struggles.

*MS SB: I actually faced more problems than the problems I faced in the Democratic Front party*

*There was like, you know, people who were talking bad about me people, creating groups on Facebook, saying rumors about me. Some journalists wrote about me in newspapers, accusing me of things that never happened. It was it was like a circus, you know. 43:20.*

Then came one of the most terrifying nights for my aunt when a journalist wrote yet another untrue thing in a newspaper.

*MS SB: In one of the newspapers very in Al Ahram newspaper, that he actually didn't write my full name. He write my initials MS is, will be arrested by the police and every single newspaper and website in Egypt. And actually Al Jazeera, they announced that on TV. The lawyer of the party called me that night. When he saw the news, he told me, Moushira, don't spend the night in your parents house. Just leave and go somewhere else But just in case, maybe someone can come and knock at your door and make a scene.my dad drove me to my aunt's house. And I was I was really scared when I was going down the stairs, that maybe somebody is waiting to arrest me. You know, it was it was it was terrifying for me. I never slept that night. 45:22.*

After the terror my aunt faced that night she was scared not only for herslef but for the whole family so she needed to make a choice.

*MS SB: So, I had to just resign and leave you know in order not to face more problems, so it was a sad experience again for me it was traumatizing to be honest. 44:37.*

After my aunt’s political experience she decided to shift careers and jon the field of development

*MS SB: And actually, I you know, it was successful. It was really successful. So I feel like I learned my lesson.*

*NS SB: It's great that you found your place now.*

*Ms SB: Yeah, I hope so. I think so. I found I don't know, I guess.*

*NS SB: Yes, I think so too.*

*MS SB: Yeah, thank you. 53:04.*

*Fade out Music: Access Road 138 by Trailhead*

This audio feature was produced by (your name) for the Audio Production course at The American University in Cairo, taught by Professor Kim Fox in the Spring semester of two-thousand-twenty-one. Special thanks to Moushira Saleh and Yasser Saleh.