

Egypt from an insider's perspective: Waiting...

By Sara ElShafie

TECHNEWS WRITER

This week, we continue to share excerpts from Sara's blog <http://asandstorminbastille.blogspot.com/>, describing her experience amid the recent Egyptian Revolution.

Friday, January 28, 2011

7:00pm

Still no word from Mubarak. We're all awaiting his speech.

We are all praying that these demonstrations will end in Mubarak's removal. At this point, the protesters won't stop until he's gone. God forbid he should try to hand power to his son. The city would literally be in flames.

Lenah remarks that no one anticipated that the demonstrations would reach this point. This is the biggest event in Egypt in 33 years.

Amu Ayman says that this is only the third time for the army to enter the streets in 60 years. It happened in '77 with the Bread Riots, and it happened in '86 when the government tried to make obligatory military service 5 years instead of 3 and the young men of the country took to the streets in protest.

I am shocked to hear that there are still police in the street *shooting people*. They have truly lost their minds. They've turned into rabid animals. I wonder if the army will have to call them off or even remove the police themselves.

Half a million protesters reported in Alexandria. Several police stations have been set on fire in Cairo.

8:00pm

The situation is getting worse. *The city is out of control*. Apparently the police have retreated from the streets, but the army has been in the streets for two hours and they haven't done a damned thing to control the situation. Someone just robbed a bank in Tahrir. A famous movie director came up to a camera and begged the soldiers to protect the Egyptian

Museum from being robbed too.

No way to know if the looters and violent people in the streets are protesters or government people creating chaos to threaten the protesters...

Just announced that people have broken into the Television headquarters. This is exactly what we feared. If they take over the TV tower, they could cut TV reception for *the entire country*. Then we will REALLY be in crisis. The TV networks are our last outlet. Without them, we have no way of knowing what's going on...

The curfew has officially been extended to *all of Egypt*, including Sinai. However, it is not helping to calm the violence.

...I can't even keep up with my thoughts. The news networks can barely keep up with the events either.

8:30pm

Gamal and Ala' Mubarak have left the country, and still no word from the Coward in Chief Hosni Mubarak. Mark my words, this is the end of the Mubarak regime. I am *so proud* to be here to witness the day of Egypt's independence!

8:45pm

The country is in flames. The country is completely out of control.

People are looting stores and carrying merchandise in the streets. Fire has been set to the National Democratic Party headquarters, the Cairo Trade Center, and a hotel which has not been identified.

Soldiers are guarding the Egyptian Museum and the TV tower. Thank God.

10:00pm

[Dad] assures me that, despite the striking appearance, this is *peaceful* demonstration. He is actually *amazed* and so impressed with the Egyptians and how beautifully they have handled it thus far. He has seen demonstrations turn violent very quickly, back in his activism days when he was my age. This is not a civil war. This is not sectarian violence. This is

Egyptians fighting the government. They will not raze the country to the ground. They are protecting the country. They are attacking the government only.

The news is all over US news networks, and CNN is covering the events *by the minute*, and they're based in Europe. When the US heard that the government cut the internet they were *shocked*. No government has EVER

cut the internet to an entire country. This was the first major message that the government has crossed the line and is panicking and is *finished*!

We're waiting to hear from the White House...

To be continued...



CAMPUS

The energy side of sustainability

By The Office of Campus Energy and Sustainability

Campus maps prior to the year 2000 depict a different IIT than we see today - underdeveloped and outdated. The campus today has a new look, a new atmosphere, and a new challenge to match. IIT has engaged students, faculty and staff in campaigns to recycle, reduce energy use and increase use of alternative transportation. In order for this to happen, IIT must create a new culture of sustainability within the community and administration and implement sustainable energy solutions that allow IIT to meet the energy reduction goals of the Campus Sustainability Plan. IIT will follow a clear progression to improve energy use on campus, beginning with building efficiency, while adding alternative and on-site sources of energy as they make sense.

IIT must first improve facility energy use to make the campus more sustainable. All building systems that use and deliver energy need improvement, as does the manner in which all IIT community members interact with energy. IIT's Facilities department has begun to retrofit lighting fixtures and introduce building automation systems to improve efficiency. To do their part, campus occupants need to reduce energy use and follow campus policies by turning off equipment and lights when not needed, eliminate unnecessary pieces of equipment (like old printers, computers and lab equipment), and engage building operators as to opportunities that will give them more control over their energy use.

The idea of sustainable energy was intro-

duced to IIT about 60 years ago. Today new ideas move from research and academics to operations as a matter of common practice. Projects like the Smart Microgrid (a joint project of IIT operations, the Galvin Center for Electricity Innovation and WISER), renewable vehicle charging stations, and battery storage highlight the implementation of IIT technologies and solutions in a Living Laboratory. These initiatives help to solve real campus issues, like the new metering project that will monitor energy use in each building, giving operators and occupants real-time information to help drive innovation and performance. The future could bring large solar, photovoltaic, and geothermal systems to campus.

The historic nature of the campus presents a unique challenge for IIT as it seeks to improve energy utilization. Staff, faculty and students need to get creative in finding new solutions and using technology to meet these challenges. In just a few years, IIT has made a "quantum jump" in changing its mindset toward becoming more efficient and sustainable. With this momentum, and new technologies, another jump will come. Dr. Hamid Arastoopour, Director of WISER, believes that becoming sustainable does not just present a problem that requires a solution, but a new cultural shift: "We're a university; smart and creative. We need to look outside of the box. We need to make the quantum jump. Sustainability is not one thing. It's everything."

Find out more about IIT energy initiatives and learn more about the IIT Campus Sustainability Plan at

http://www.iit.edu/campus_sustainability.



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Information Session

The Career Management Center is excited to be hosting an Information Session for Hegemony Consulting Group on March 29, 2011.

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1st session: 4:00pm - 5:00pm in Stuart Building Rm 104 Aud
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Stop by on March 29, 2011 to learn more about what they can offer IIT students and alumni!

Call 312.567.6800 to RSVP for the webcast link

Food will be provided.

