



Egypt: the aftermath of the 'Jasmine Revolution'...

Friday 11 February 2011 is a day that will long be remembered throughout Egypt, and the rest of the Middle East. It was the culmination of more than two weeks of protests against Hosni Mubarak, the then president – literally thousands of protestors had taken to the streets to try to overthrow him as Egypt's president, after three decades in power.

Journalists in Cairo's Tahrir Square, the focus of the protests, estimate that hundreds of thousands of people showed up over the 18 days of protests – men, women and children from a broad spectrum of Egyptian society.

Shortly after nightfall on the 18th day of protests, Vice-President Omar Suleiman announced that Hosni Mubarak would step down, with immediate effect. The tens of thousands gathered in Tahrir Square greeted the news with joy.

However, the protests were not without cost: the health ministry has said at least 365 people died during the 18 days.

Life in Egypt remains disrupted, with tanks still on Cairo streets, and many banks and schools closed.

Bishop Mouneer, who oversees the BibleLands-supported humanitarian work of the Diocese of Egypt, writes, *"Egypt is now writing a new chapter in its history. Demonstrations continue in the streets; some of them are celebrations and others are protesting for different reasons, including low salaries, etc."*

"There is a lot of uncertainty even within this turning point in the history of Egypt, so we continue to gather every day to pray for Egypt and its people."

He continues, *"Egyptians have paid a heavy price during this crisis, including hundreds of millions of dollars every day and lives lost. I hope that the people of Egypt will now give an opportunity for the transitional government to improve the whole situation."*

The Diocese of Egypt runs seven Community Development Centres, each one caring for 2,500 families. The director of one of these centres told us, *"Most of the people who come to our centres these days have lost their jobs. Every day people come to us crying, as they don't have money to buy food and cannot provide for their families."*

Some of our partners had to close down their activities during the riots and they are now struggling financially, due to loss of income and activity for almost three weeks. However, their faith and reliance on God is a real inspiration – they are trusting God for their future and the future of Egypt, even though that future is uncertain at the moment.

If you would like to find out more about our partners in Egypt, and how they continue to be affected by the situation there, please visit our website or call us on 01494 897950. You can also give a gift by clicking on the Donate Online link on our website.