

ELITE



66 ISSUES



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ELITE



FEPS, WHERE ELITES ARE MADE

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51 YEARS SINCE OCTOBER VICTORY

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YEARS ANNIVERSARY

**Celebrating her
reception of the
State Award for
Excellence in
Social Sciences**

Meeting Prof. Omneia Helmy

Professor of
Economics and
Former FEPS Vice
Dean for Post-
graduate Studies
and Research





الأستاذة الدكتورة / أمينة أمين حلمي
حاصلة على جائزة التفوق
في مجال العلوم الاجتماعية لعام 2024

Celebrating her reception of the State Award for
Excellence in Social Sciences

Meeting with Dr. Omneia Helmy

Professor of Economics and Former FEPS Vice Dean for Post-graduate Studies and Research

Rana Ahmed- Salma El Bukhary - Lydia Amir

Elite magazine was honored to meet Dr. Omneia Helmy, Department of Economics, Faculty of Economics and Political Science, Cairo University, winner of the state award for Excellence in Social Sciences and former vice dean of the faculty for graduate studies and scientific research. She spoke with us very warmly and recommended several points that we will share with you...

1-How did your relationship with the Faculty of Economics and Political Science begin, and why did you choose it?

Ever since I was young, I have heard about the Faculty of Economics and Political Science and the Faculty of Mass Communication. Coincidentally, I was ranked the second top student earning Egypt's high school certificate "Thanawya Amma", literary section. God blessing, I was thrilled, and after thinking thoroughly I chose to join the Faculty of Economics and Political Science, Cairo University for its excellent reputation.

2-how did this specialization contribute to the formation of your character?

- Economics has always been a topic of interest to my family, thinking about our country's economic situation, and discussing our family's income and expenditures. When I joined FEPS, I was very impressed during my first year by all my distinguished professors, specially Dr. Amr Mohieldin (may God have mercy upon him), who taught us principles of economics. This was one of the main reasons that prompted me to join the economics department, in which the number of students was relatively limited, so there was a greater opportunity to get to know the rest of our colleagues and establish close relationships between us.

3-How was your student life like, and what activities did you do How was your relationship with the professors?

I strongly believe that one should have a well-rounded personality.. My first goal was to maintain my Academic excellence because that's the most important thing for me. But at the same time, I was very active, nominating myself as a member of FEPS' students union. My colleagues chose me and also elected me as the head of FEPS' Cultural Committee. In collaboration with my colleagues, we organized several cultural activities, whether seminars in various fields, showing useful films, workshops, and art exhibitions. At the same time, I had athletic goals. I remember that my colleague Dr. Shereen Al Shawarbi, currently prominent professor of economics at FEPS, we participated together in the college volleyball team. It was a very nice activity that helped me learn how to organize time and combine studying leisure activities.

4-Egypt has been exposed to many economic fluctuations recently, What do you think of the policies that aim at reducing the effects of such fluctuations

The whole world is going through a severe stage of increasing risks and uncertainty. Proposing an economic policy to solve these problems is not easy and even very dangerous. Since 2020, the coronavirus pandemic, which was not only a health tragedy but a human tragedy from all dimensions: political, economic, and social effects that affected the whole world, without exception, including Egypt. Following it,



the Russian-Ukrainian war erupted, and because Egypt depended on importing wheat, other food resources, and energy, it affected the exchange rate in Egypt and the shipping costs. We tried to overcome this crisis, but the geopolitical and regional situation deteriorated: the invasion of Gaza, the displacement of Palestinians, the extermination of the Palestinian people by the Zionists, and a series of assassinations and continuous attacks. These conditions affected the revenues of the Suez Canal, so we lost about 50 % of its revenues. Tourism, which is a very important source of income for Egypt, has also been affected. Followingly, such conditions resulted in a very high inflation and price level, and domestic tourism was negatively affected; as tourists became worried about visiting the region as a whole.

To limit the adverse implications of these disruptions, monetary policy should aim at reducing inflation and maintain exchange rate flexibility. Fiscal policy should reduce tax evasion and tax avoidance, broaden the tax base, and reduce public domestic and external debt. Policies should provide positive incentives to promote real productive sectors such as agriculture, manufacturing, and information technology services. Institutional reforms are much needed for investors, to limit monopolistic practices and provide new productive and decent jobs.

5-According to our experience as Former Feps' Vice Dean for Postgraduate Studies and Research and a member of the Academy of Scientific Research is great; what steps should be taken to develop scientific research in the country?

Recently I have been interested in exports and imports. Because we see that the current conflicts are not only economic but also technological, and they are being used by Israel inhumanely. So technology has become a double-edged sword. Therefore, all countries must prepare their young people with science, discipline, and research so that they can compete with the rest of the world in the field of technology. I believe that research should not be limited to traditional ideas or topics but we also need to challenge ourselves to keep up with the advanced civilizations. For instance, Digital computing and quantum technology were among the things that we only heard about and had little experience with. That's why through the course of the research plan that we were developing for the college, we started to research in those areas. What's important now is the application, we don't want read-only research, we want to see enthusiastic young people who want to apply these things.

6-The unfortunate events taking place in the Middle East are reflected in the regional economy, from your point of view, what policy should be taken to keep abreast of the regional situation?

We have been always advocating for joint Arab actions. If we are talking about Arab food security or the geopolitical problems facing us, we would hope that the Arab countries would take a united and

coherent position because most of the countries around us are suffering. Egypt has an educated and good human force, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, and the UAE have financial resources, and Sudan and other countries have agricultural and animal resources; add to this diversity, oil and energy resources; If we Arabs join hands, our enemies would not underestimate our strength. "Hold strongly to the rope of God all of you, and do not disperse."

7-There is no doubt that the economic crisis is reflected in all countries of the world, so what are the opportunities and challenges of the international economic context

The most important challenge facing us is the inflation of food prices, despite that Egypt was originally an agricultural country. Unfortunately, we have a problem with food security because we import a lot of foodstuffs. The high international prices, the difficulty of importing them, and the cost of transporting them hinder Egypt's food security, which affects the standard of living. Poverty is also strongly related to food and prices. Of course, high prices of energy and fertilizers affected the Egyptian agricultural sector.

To reduce the burden, the state is forced to provide some kind of support to various categories, and this is reflected in the state's general budget, increasing the budget deficit and, of course, increasing indebtedness.

But despite all of this, we have a role, the first of which is to increase state revenues through more efficient tax administration as the large informal sector in the Egyptian economy does not pay taxes. Widening the tax base is not intended to raise the tax but to increase the number of people and companies and eliminate tax evasion. If revenues increase, it is easier to spend on health education and increase social protection.

We must also take good care of the real productive sectors: agriculture, industry, and communication services. We depend heavily on imports, so it's time to produce with our own hands so that we no longer be under the pressure of unrest around the world. I recommend that you value work, as respecting the value of work and not relying on others is one of the most important life skills.

8-We would like to congratulate you on winning the State Award for Excellence in Social Sciences, how did you reach this great achievement?

Thank you for your interest in conducting this meeting with me, this is a great honor for me, and thank you for this appreciation. For a person to receive recognition and honor from the state, one must have worked and continued this diligence over many years; this award is based on the achievements of an individual over fifteen or twenty years. Therefore, I encourage all my colleagues, students, and friends to get excited about knowledge production and keep up with the Times.



“Do your work, and Allah, his messenger and the believers will see your work”.

I am working for the sake of God and the development of my country, but no doubt I was happy to be honored because that day, I was with my great professors. Dr. Ali al-Din Hilal, Dr. Gouda Abdel Khalek, Dr. Ahmed Youssef, Dr. Alia Al-Mahdi, and Dr. Mohammed Salman, who are these are the elite of the Faculty of Economics and Political Science. I was very happy that the State honored me among my professors and colleagues.

9-What is your advice for college students and graduates in the job market and what are the challenges they face now?

First of all, I would like to congratulate you for your excellent academic achievement which enabled you to join the Faculty of Economics and Political Science, which is distinguished by excellence, sophistication, and creativity, and I hope that you will maintain this excellence and participate in various student activities. You should always think about how to develop yourself and your competitiveness and to be well-rounded personalities. The training courses are very useful, and the college provides many of them either here or abroad as well.

Languages need to be taken care of; not one language is enough. I speak Arabic, English, Spanish, and French, as these languages enable you to get to know people from other nationalities and travel to many countries. Another good thing is that the college provides many job opportunities for senior students and graduates.

Further, organizing time to attend seminars and activities at the college makes your experience a great asset to help you in the job market. I was affiliated at George Mason University in America, which influenced my personality, and also to the University of Barcelona in Spain, and all this with the support of the college. I imagine that's why we all feel a strong sense of belonging and loyalty to our college. My advice to you is to share knowledge with your friends and colleagues, as the exchange of knowledge leads to collective development, especially for people with special needs. When you do this, you will feel really successful when you share the benefits of your achievements and excellence with those around you.

At the end of this meeting, the team and Dr. Omneia Helmy exchanged thanks to each other and promised future meetings in the magazine.





CU President celebrates with FEPS its International Accreditation

Salma Nasr- Political science- 3rd year



On October 8, 2024, our dear faculty celebrated becoming internationally accredited by ASIC. A grand ceremony was held at the Zaki Shafea Hall to celebrate the college's achievement of obtaining International Institutional Academic Accreditation from the prestigious Accreditation Service for International Schools (ASIC). This accreditation, awarded with excellence, is a testament to the relentless efforts and dedication of the faculty professors and administrative staff.

The celebration began with a speech from Dr. Nahla Mahmoud, head of the international accreditation team.

She expressed her heartfelt congratulations to FEPS and Cairo University, emphasizing the pride and gratitude felt by all members of the faculty. Dr. Nahla extended special thanks to Dr. Hanan the acting dean of FEPS, the international accreditation team members as well as acknowledging Dr. Marwa El-Beltagy, the Vice Dean for Postgraduate Studies for her significant contributions. Following Dr. Nahla's speech, Dr. Hanan Mohamed, the acting Dean of the Faculty of Economics and Political Science, took the stage.



She began with a verse from the Quran, "Those who believe and do good deeds will not lose the reward of those who do good deeds." This was followed by a beautiful metaphor comparing the college to a tree with wide branches and leaves, symbolizing the faculty's growth, its far-reaching influence, and its determination to spread knowledge globally.



She spoke about the college's achievements that have already been accomplished, including ISO certification and various local accreditations, as well as securing second place in the Government Excellence Award in 2022. Dr. Hanan elaborated on the rigorous process of obtaining the international accreditation, detailing the cooperation and dedication of everyone involved in the college. The accreditation process, she noted, was a collective effort that saw contributions from professors, staff, and students alike. She dedicated this success to the president of Cairo University Dr. Mohamed Sami Abdelsadiq, she also extended her thanks to the former president Dr. Mohamed ElKhosht for facilitating the process and offering help, and to the current vice president of Cairo University and the former dean of FEPS Dr. Mahmoud Alsaid for taking the first steps towards accreditation.

Afterwards, the President of Cairo University, Mohamed Sami Abdel Sadiq, delivered an inspiring address, highlighting the timing of the accreditation ceremony, which coincided with the anniversary of the October War Victory. He drew a parallel between the determination and strategic planning that led to the war's victory and the persistence and meticulous preparation that enabled the faculty to achieve international accreditation.



President Abdel Sadiq proudly referred to the Faculty of Economics and Political Science as "the pearl of Cairo University.". President Abdel Sadiq also acknowledged the exceptional work that went into preparing the accreditation file, extending thanks to Mahmoud Al-Saeed and all the deans of the college for their roles in bringing the accreditation process to fruition. He announced that a workshop would be organized to showcase the faculty's journey to other faculties, inspiring further achievements within Cairo University. To commemorate the occasion, Dr. Hanan presented President Abdel Sadiq with a souvenir bearing the faculty's logo and accreditation symbol.



The ceremony also featured a video presentation that captured the journey of the faculty's accreditation process. This video highlighted the faculty's achievements and the obstacles overcome along the way, showcasing how a strong team effort led to this historic milestone. The audience was taken on a visual tour of the faculty, featuring footage from the visit of the accreditation delegation and the maintenance and improvement of the faculty's facilities.

During the ceremony, several key partners and contributors to the faculty's success were honored. These included the Hanns Seidel Foundation, the Central Agency for Public Mobilization and Statistics, and distinguished figures like Ambassador Mohamed El Orabi member of the parliament, Dr. Ashraf El Araby, President of the National Planning Institute, and Dr. Naela Gabr, head of the National Committee to Combat Illegal Migration that were present in the ceremony.

These honors acknowledged their support in promoting the faculty's mission and vision and their role in making our faculty distinguished as ever.



In addition to the external partners, the college also recognized its internal champions, who have contributed to the faculty's development over the years. Former university president Dr. Mohamed Osman El-Khosht, were recognized for their leadership, as were the directors of key centers and units. The ceremony's honorees included Effat Al-Zoghbi, Director of the Quality Assurance Unit, and Alya Saraya, Academic Coordinator of the French Division, Dr. Ramy Magdy, Editor-in-Chief of Elite Magazine. The honorees also included the heads of academic centers, department heads, and key faculty members who played pivotal roles in the accreditation process. No less important were the contributions of the administrative staff, who worked diligently behind the scenes to support the accreditation process.



Dr. Hanan acknowledged the tireless efforts of the administrative staff, who played an instrumental role in the accreditation process and the workers of the faculty. From the college secretary Mr. Sherif Mohamed Hammam to the teams in the youth welfare, security, graduate studies, and administrative affairs departments, as well as every worker in the college, everyone's efforts were appreciated.

Group photos were taken to commemorate the occasion, with Dr. Hanan personally thanking each department for their unwavering support. The ceremony concluded with an optimistic outlook on the future. Dr. Hanan reiterated that while the international accreditation is a significant achievement, it marks only the beginning of the faculty's journey toward greater excellence.





In the presence of the Deputy Minister of Social Solidarity, the Head of the National Alliance for Civil Action, and the Head of the Central Agency for Organization and Administration

Our Faculty signs a cooperation protocol with Misr El Kheir Foundation to establish a Master's degree in Community Resource Development and launch the first interactive educational platform to support the sustainability of civil work

By Dr Ramy Magdy

Under the umbrella of the National Alliance for Civil Development Work, Eng. Margaret Saroufim, Deputy Minister of Social Solidarity, on behalf of Dr. Maya Morsi, Minister of Social Solidarity, witnessed the closing ceremony of the first round of the Institutional Excellence Grant for Civil Society Organizations 2024, which was held on Sunday, October 13, and organized by Misr El Kheir Foundation, in the presence of Ambassador Nabila Makram, Head of the Technical Secretariat of the National Alliance for Civil Development Work, Dr. Saleh El Sheikh, Head of the Central Agency for Organization and Administration, Dr. Mohamed Refaei, CEO of Misr El Kheir Foundation, and Dr. Mohamed Mamdouh, Head of the Civil Society Development Sector.

In which a cooperation protocol was signed between the Faculty of Economics and Political Science - Cairo University and Misr El Kheir Foundation for the purpose of establishing a Master's degree in Community Resources Development and Investment and launching the first interactive educational platform to support the sustainability of civil society work.

The protocol was signed on behalf of the Faculty of Economics and Political Science by Prof. Dr. Mamdouh Ismail, Vice Dean of the Faculty for Community Service and Environment Affairs, and Mr. Mohamed Refaei, CEO of Misr El Kheir Foundation. Prof. Dr. Nora Atef Obeid, Professor of Public Administration at the Faculty and Protocol Coordinator participated.

For her part, Ambassador Nabila Makram, Head of the Technical Secretariat and Executive Director of the National Alliance for Civil Development Work, praised the political leadership's thinking in caring about building the human being, noting that the slogan of Misr El Kheir Foundation "Human Development is Our Primary Mission" is also in line with the presidential initiative to build the human being, praising Misr El Kheir Foundation's move from human development to the development of civil institutions, which confirms the extent of the foundation's interest in building the human being.

Prof. Dr. Hanan Mohamed Ali, Dean of the Faculty of Economics and Political Science, said that the cooperation protocol is part of an important network of cooperation agreements linking the Faculty of Economics and Political Science with various academic, research and development institutions, through which it seeks to enhance its mission in employing knowledge to serve society, as well as achieving its mission of providing the latest educational, research and community services in the fields of economics, statistics, political science, public administration and social computing in accordance with the requirements of the era of the Fourth Industrial Revolution, using distinguished human resources, modern technological methods and established development companies to meet the needs of the labor market and the requirements of sustainable development. It devotes the vision of the college aspiring for the Faculty of Economics and Political Science to be one of the best faculties of fourth-generation universities in the fields of education, scientific research and community service, similar to its counterparts in prestigious international universities.

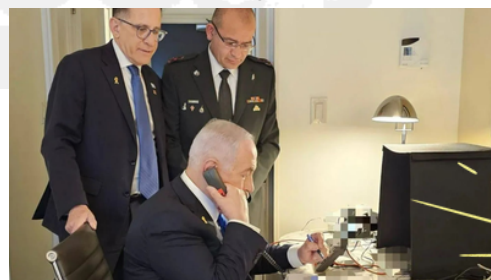


The “Blessing” against the “Curse”

Kenzy Tamer- Political Science-
Second Year

One year has passed since the October 7th attacks. One year has passed since the beginning of the genocide in Gaza. In only one year, millions of adults, women and children have been killed in Gaza, and thousands in Lebanon. And finally, in just one year we have witnessed -once again- the ineffectiveness and unreliability of international law that mainly serves the interests of global powers. Certainly, because the floor has been given to Netanyahu: a war criminal recognized by the International Criminal Court (ICC), to justify his genocidal motives in embellished speeches explaining the Zionist narratives and plans in the Middle East.

The latest most important Netanyahu speech is the one he made at the UN General Assembly; the world has given a war criminal the floor in an organization that supposedly aims to establish peace worldwide... This historical speech will always be remembered, because while Israel tried to clear its image in front of world leaders denying claims of committing war crimes, the “genocidal state” carried out strikes in Lebanon minutes after Netanyahu’s speech from the UN building.



It is important to say that in the case of this war in Gaza or its escalations in Lebanon and the other Middle Eastern fronts, the images are more powerful than words, while this is the first well documented war, many countries still believe and praise the repetitive Israeli narrative and offer them support and military aid, and others have condemned them. But after Netanyahu's speech at the United Nations General Assembly, the Prime Minister insisted on showcasing the "moral and peaceful legitimate war" conducted by his state. Despite the fact that Israel advocates for peace (according to Netanyahu) the Prime Minister has not shown any real initiative to end the war and the regional escalation. In fact, it will persist till Israel fulfill its motives in the region because it is "winning".



Netanyahu's speech also aims to address all the "lies and slanders levelled at Israel" he came to "set the record straight" to refute the "genocidal claims" while previous Israeli attacks on Gaza have killed (according to the Palestinian Health Ministry) over 41,500 Palestinians and wounded more than 96,000 others since October 7.

He also addressed the moral confusion where Israel is "being falsely accused of genocide" while it is actively trying to "defend itself against its enemies", which instantly legitimizes Israel attacks on Lebanon and Gaza. Netanyahu rejects the ICC arrest warrant issued against him, he justified his actions as Israel's right to remove Iran's and its proxies' "threat" and advocates for the return of Israeli hostages and citizens. On the other hand, the Prime minister has been criticized by his own people in the Israeli protests and riots last September, as the war he is conducting is uselessly draining the state's economy and didn't bring their loved ones home. In addition to that, many Israeli hostages have been killed by attacks conducted of their own state in order to erase the Palestinian population.

Moreover, Netanyahu opted for the traditional narrative Israeli narrative of the "good peaceful" side against the "evil terrorist" side: Iran manipulating Hamas, the Houthis and Hezbollah to indirectly fight the "peace loving state". Currently the tensions between both states are peaking following the Iranian attacks on Israel, and Israeli raids assassinating Hamas' political chief Ismail Haniyeh or Hezbollah's secretary general Hassan Nasrallah. During his speech, Netanyahu constantly justified this legitimate war by also adopting an important Zionist narrative of the victimizing the Israeli state that is being continuously persecuted, but this time the persecuted state can finally stand for itself, and the world should stand behind it.

The most marking part of the UN speech is when the Prime Minister showed 2 controversial maps describing the Middle East, in order to convince the world and justify Israel's right to defend itself. One has shown the "blessing" visualizing Arab states that have either made peace with Israel or appeared likely to do so before Hamas's "atrocities" on October 7. Some may interpret this map as primary model of the Zionist plan of establishing "Greater Israel" expanding from the Nile river to the Euphrates and Tigris rivers. The other map, described as the "curse" highlighting Iran's "tentacles" manipulating its proxies in Syria, Iraq, Yemen, Palestine and Lebanon who are menacing global trade, regional stability and international security. In the light of this, Israel's presence in the region and "moral" war against Iran is legitimate. The Prime minister wants to portray his state as a peaceful where its presence in the Middle East will ensure peace and stability of Israel and its "Arab Neighbors" and not fragment it and invade it.

In addition, Netanyahu's speech came after comparing the Jewish state to Nazi Germany and comparing Netanyahu to Hitler, which changes the narrative that a portion of the previously tortured, marginalized and killed population in the Holocaust, has become the aggressor with genocidal motives to end the Palestinian population. The Prime Minister classified these claims under the antisemitic umbrella, and accused the UN to be the hub for antisemitism, he said "Until Israel, until the Jewish State, is treated like other nations, until this antisemitic swamp is drained, the UN will be viewed by fair-minded people everywhere as nothing more than a contemptuous farce" he also described the UN as an "anti-Israel society" where there is a "majority willing to demonize Israel". This antisemitic label has been used to shut anything that goes against the undeniable Zionist propaganda, this term is aimed to convince the world but mainly European countries and "Mama America" to continue financing Israel's well founded and well justified war against evil: they are the bad guys, not us...!



Furthermore, He also encouraged global leaders to support Israel in its war against the “tyranny of Tehran”. most importantly on the UN podium, a symbol of peace, he threatened Iran by saying that “Israel’s long arm can reach anywhere in Iran or in the Middle East”, that’s why he asked world leaders “what choice are [they] willing to make?” which demonstrates the polarization of the countries around the paradoxical presence of “democracy and peace”= Israel against the brutal “dictatorship that exports terrorism across the globe”. Netanyahu also focused on the importance of an Arab Israeli normalization which will bring peace in the region, this refers to the Abrahamic Accords signed between Israel the United Arab Emirates, and Bahrain, Netanyahu addressed his speech to Saudi Arabia, and aimed to create an Israeli-Saudi normalization.

Finally, it is important to explain the fact that many diplomats like the Iranian, the Saudi Arabian, the Malaysian representatives and others have walked out of the Assembly during Netanyahu’s speech protesting and denouncing the crimes committed by Israel.

Many of them has left the Assembly while booing the Minister while his supporters clapped for him to mask the negative remarks. This is the least thing that world leaders can do when a war criminal is giving a speech at the UN General Assembly. However some western channels have not broadcasted those parts or even muted the booing of the audience.

Other world leaders on the podium criticized Israel’s war on Gaza. For example, the Slovenian Prime Minister Robert Golob said as he pounded the podium: “Mr. Netanyahu, stop this war now”. Or the Pakistani Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif who denounced the Israeli assault on Gaza by saying “This is not just a conflict. This is systematic slaughter of innocent people of Palestine,” he said.



6
YEARS ANNIVERSARY



Banning UN secretary general: The Heritage of Antagonizing UN in Israel's Foreign Policy

Salma Nasr-Political science- Third year

Recently, Israeli foreign minister Israel Katz declared the UN secretary general Antonio Guterres an undesirable person, banning him from entering its land. The immediate cause of this action was Guterres' refusal to explicitly condemn the Iranian attack on Israel. However, this ban offers only a glimpse of Israel's long history of antagonism and ingratitude.

To understand Israel's current defiance towards the United Nations, we should revisit the organization's foundational role in the establishment of the Israeli. In 1947, the United Nations General Assembly passed Resolution 181, commonly known as the Partition Plan. This plan proposed to divide the British Mandate of Palestine into two states—one Jewish and one Arab.

Despite comprising only about one-third of the population at the time, the Jewish state was allocated 55% of the land. This decision was met with fierce opposition from Arab leaders and the local Palestinian population. The Zionist leadership, under figures like David Ben-Gurion, accepted the plan, which was the base for the declaration of the State of Israel in 1948.



Israel now demands unconditional support from the organization, particularly in the context of its genocide in both Gaza and Lebanon. Any criticism or attempt by the UN to hold Israel accountable for actions that clearly violate international law is met with disdain and accusations of bias. The irony here is that the very institution that granted Israel the legitimacy to become a sovereign state is now perceived by Israel as an adversary. This contradiction becomes even funnier when one considers the UN's original intent: to provide a platform for dialogue, peace, and international cooperation. For Israel, the UN's value seems to lie only in its ability to reinforce Israel's actions even when they result in a massacre. Israel's stance towards the UN has become one of entitlement, where only unconditional support is acceptable, and any form of criticism—no matter how measured or justified—is seen as “anti-Semitism”. Israel's defiance of the United Nations has also had its impacts on its workers. 134 local UN employees have been killed during Israeli military operations in Gaza. The targeting of UN/UNRWA personnel underscores the broader issue of Israel's disregard for international norms.



The UN' staffs attempts to provide humanitarian assistance but they have become collateral damage along with the Gazans - Children, women, elderly- to kill that mysterious Hamas leader hidden in a more mysterious place.

This conflict between Israel and the UN reminds us of a similar dynamic from Israel's pre-state era, specifically during the time of the British Mandate. After World War I, the League of Nations granted Britain control over Palestine. The British strongly supported the Zionist cause, most notably through the Balfour Declaration of 1917, which promised the establishment of a "national home for the Jewish people" in Palestine. However with the growing waves of Jewish immigration, Britain attempted to limit Zionist ambitions. In response, militant Zionist groups such as Irgun and Lehi (the Stern Gang) launched violent campaigns against British rule. One of the most infamous incidents was the bombing of the King David Hotel in Jerusalem in 1946, which served as the British administrative headquarters. The attack, carried out by Irgun, killed 91 people and was a direct act of defiance against British attempts to limit Zionist aspirations.



So as we see now, just as Israel once turned against the British, who had helped the Zionists to settle in Palestine, it is now defying the UN, the very institution that helped legitimize its statehood. In both cases, Israel's leadership rejected external attempts to regulate or limit its actions, instead resorting to a strategy of defiance and confrontation.



In fact, the role of the United Nations in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict has become increasingly marginalized over the years. Many resolutions condemning Israeli actions over the decades had been passed by the Security Council. These resolutions, however, are routinely ignored by Israel, which views them as evidence of anti-Israel bias within the international body. Israel, backed by the diplomatic support of the United States, has been able to float these resolutions with little consequence. One of the most prominent examples is Resolution 242, passed in the aftermath of the Naksa in 1967. Despite this clear mandate, Israel has continued to occupy and settle large portions of the West Bank, in direct contravention of international law. The United Nations has been left in a position where it can issue condemnations and pass resolutions, but it lacks the power to enforce them. This impotence has not only weakened the UN's standing in Israel but has further damaged its reputation globally.

The contrast between António Guterres and his predecessor, Ban Ki-moon truly shows Israel's expectations of the UN. Ban, who served as UN Secretary-General from 2007 to 2016, took a notably different approach to Israel. He publicly criticized what he saw as an anti-Israel bias within the UN.



He argued that the organization needed to be more balanced in its approach, and he called for greater attention to be paid to

human rights abuses committed by other states in the MENA region, such as Syria. In contrast, Guterres has been far more willing to criticize Israel, particularly for its actions since the 7th of October. His initial refusal to explicitly condemn the Iranian attack on Israel was seen as the last straw by the Israeli government, leading to the decision to ban him from the country. This situation truly shows Israel's expectations from any international figure. Those who offer even mild criticism are seen as hostile and anti-Semitic while those who show sympathy and compassion despite any circumstances are "fair" and "true". Lastly, Israel's actions towards international critics raise a hypothetical question: Would the United States, Israel's closest ally, be the next target of Israeli defiance? The U.S. has long been Israel's strongest supporter on the global stage either by providing billions of dollars in military aid or offering a political cover for Israeli actions that have been condemned by much of the world. If a future U.S. administration were to adopt a more critical stance towards Israel, could it face the same hostility that the UN and the British government has experienced? This is not an entirely far-fetched scenario. Israel's current government, led by Netanyahu, has demonstrated a willingness to defy even its closest allies when it perceives that they are not acting in Israel's best interests. If the U.S. were to push for greater accountability from Israel it is not inconceivable that Israel could respond with the same defiance?





Resistance as a moral duty

Abdelrahman Sakr- Economics- Third Year

A year has passed since October 7th and the resistance is still silent despite all that it has suffered and the Palestinian people are still paying the price of pride and dignity from the blood of their honorable sons and daughters since the declaration of the occupation state. Between the submission of the Arab peoples to the hegemony of the West and the tyranny of the rulers, the Palestinian stands separated from place and time, refusing submission and surrender, clinging to his right and representing alone what is left of dignity and honor in this empty nation. Despite the weakness of capabilities and the severity of

disappointment, you find him indifferent to the circumstances and conditions, believing that resistance is a duty and an obligation regardless of the calculations of victory, applying the saying of Abu Ubaidah, the voice of the nation, "And it is a jihad, victory or martyrdom." That is, resistance is a duty regardless of the circumstances, so either we win, or we die. God imposed jihad on us no matter how the circumstances differ in His Almighty saying, "And prepare against them whatever you are able of power," He did not charge us with victory, for victory comes only from God.

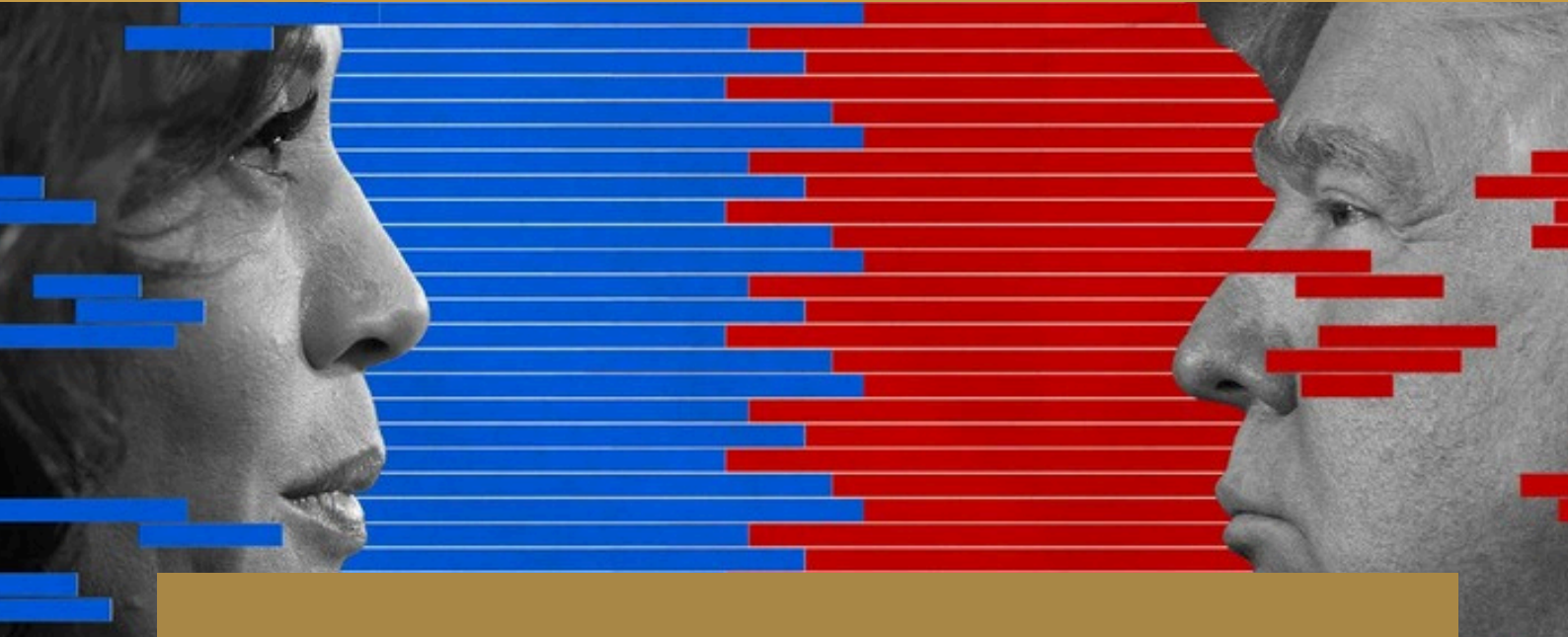


This is in resistance and jihad as a religious duty. But resistance is also a moral duty, whatever your religion. Morality dictates that we stand up for the truth even if no one stands up for it and even if the signs of victory are absent. Resistance is a societal and individual responsibility. If society is submissive and surrendered, the free individual who is separate from the herd must awaken this society with his resistance, confuse it and remind it of his duty. And Resistance is a moral duty towards future and previous generations. The slacking of any generation during the resistance journey is a crime against itself, those who preceded it, and those who will succeed it. If resistance subsides and becomes dormant, those who come after will not find anyone to take up the banner of struggle from, and the efforts of those who came before will be lost. Resistance is a struggle that extends for years and generations, each one of which is handed over to the next. From the throwing of stones in the first and second Intifada, a generation came down from the sky carrying its weapon. This reminds me of what the poet Amal Donqol said, “It is not your revenge alone, but the revenge of one generation after another. Tomorrow, someone will

be born who will wear the full armor, ignite the fire comprehensively, seek revenge, and generate the right from the ribs of the impossible.” We resist, even if we have no indication of victory, we anticipate that it will come to those who succeed us, and we believe that every drop of blood brings us closer to victory and that every defeat is an opportunity for future generations to learn.

Therefore, the Palestinian resistance is what remains of the nation’s morals and conscience, and what remains of our identity, and it will remain and will keep us. Whenever the occupation thinks that the Palestinian people have surrendered, the resistance emerges to confuse its calculations. Likewise, whenever tyranny thinks that it will not find anyone calling for freedom, the resistance emerges to move us and remind us of our cause, our identity, and the reasons for our illness. The occupation and tyranny are partners by virtue of interest, and we and the resistance are partners by virtue of brotherhood. If we accept or get used to tyranny that befalls us, we will not accept or get used to the occupation that befalls our brothers. Whenever the resistance rises, we rise.





Chasing Bliss at the Expense of Progress: The Flaws in Harris's "Joy" Platform

Zeina Elamir- Economics-Senior year

In the wake of unprecedented upheaval in American politics—from the assassination attempt on former President Trump to the abrupt resignation of President Biden—the political landscape has been irrevocably altered. In this turbulent environment, Vice President Kamala Harris has emerged as the Democratic Party's standard-bearer, centering her campaign on a singular theme: the pursuit of "joy."

However, as Harris's poll numbers continue to plummet and her popularity diminishes, it becomes increasingly evident that her emphasis on happiness and positivity is a dangerously myopic approach. This focus fails to address the complex, deep-seated issues confronting the nation. Instead of providing a clear-eyed, pragmatic blueprint for tackling America's pressing dilemmas, Harris appears to have retreated into a rhetorical rabbit hole filled with empty platitudes and frivolous pandering.



It is crucial to emphasize that the role of government is not to grant happiness or moral fulfillment but to protect and safeguard the unalienable rights of its citizens to pursue those ideals.



Governments that venture down the cynical path of attempting to fulfill arbitrary desires for happiness often undermine the foundations of a flourishing society. The authoritarian regime of Nicolás Maduro in Venezuela serves as a prime example. Maduro's platform, which can be described as that of a "political messiah" promising to salvage the Venezuelan economy, has led to devastating consequences, illustrating the dangers of such empty promises.



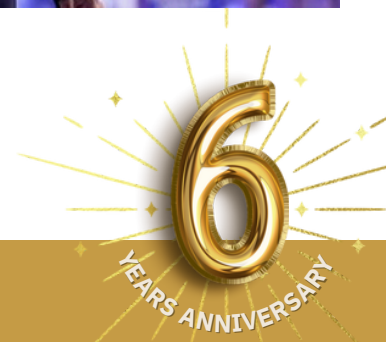
While joy, optimism, and civility undoubtedly have a place in political discourse—especially after years of bitter partisan gridlock and cultural clashes—these qualities cannot substitute for substantive policy discussions. The most pressing challenges of our time, such as widening economic inequality, climate change, and the fragility of democratic norms, cannot be resolved through mere declarations of positivity.

Effective leadership requires confronting uncomfortable truths and making difficult decisions. A society that prioritizes ephemeral happiness over pragmatic solutions is ill-equipped to navigate the complexities of the 21st century.

Leaders must engage in the hard work of problem-solving, even when it necessitates uncomfortable conversations and unpopular choices.

The government's mandate is to safeguard its citizens' rights to pursue happiness, not to promise it as an end goal. The cautionary tale of Venezuela's descent under Maduro's regime underscores the peril of platforms that offer joy and salvation as solutions to societal woes, ultimately devolving into dogma and hollow rhetoric.

While Harris's "joy" platform may offer a welcome contrast to the toxicity that has permeated American politics, it distracts from the difficult work essential for genuine progress. For a truly flourishing society, we need leaders who will prioritize a pragmatic, fact-based approach to the challenges before us. Only then can we hope to build a future grounded in realistic solutions rather than the fleeting allure of happiness.





Internal displacement & peace in the Middle East

Menna Wael- Economics-Year Four

The Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region has long been a center of geopolitical tension, marked by conflicts that have uprooted millions of people from their homes. Internally displaced people constitute a large demographic segment, but are often ignored in discussions of peace and stability. Internally displaced persons (IDPs) are defined as persons or groups who have been forcibly displaced from their usual place of residence as a result of or to avoid the effects of armed conflict, situations of generalized violence, human rights violations, or natural or man-made disasters and who have

not crossed an internationally recognized border. There are 75.9 million people living in a state of internal displacement until the end of 2023. Internally displaced people differ from refugees in that they were forced to flee their homes for the same reasons that forced refugees and asylum seekers, but they stay within their country. Internally displaced persons do not deserve protection under international refugee law, as they remain within the jurisdiction of their governments, and there is no law specialized in protecting them, unlike international law for the protection of refugees. Refugees also fall within the jurisdiction of the United Nations

High Commissioner for Refugees, while there is no specific body specialized in protecting internally displaced persons, so responsibility is divided. Several institutions provide support to them, such as the Red Crescent and the World Health Organization. The rights of internally displaced persons are enshrined in international human rights law and international humanitarian law. However, peace operations must include a specific focus on internally displaced people since their needs often differ from those of refugees and other war-affected populations.

In the Middle East, the total number of internally displaced people reached 15.3 million, an all-time high. About 5.4 million internally displaced people were recorded across the Middle East and North Africa. After three years in which conflict-related displacement declined, it increased more than eight-fold between 2020 and 2023. This is due to the Israeli aggression on Gaza, which alone caused 3.4 million internally displaced people, according to the Global Report on Internal Displacement GRID. Cases of internal displacement were also recorded in Syria, Lebanon, Yemen, Iraq and Libya. Cases of displacement resulting from disasters such as the

earthquake that struck Morocco and the floods that struck Yemen were also recorded. Especially since some countries in the region suffer from internal displacement in a complex manner, such as Syria, which is still grappling with one of the largest protracted internal displacement cases in the world - 7.2 million displaced people by the end of 2023, a 6 percent increase from 2022. The effects of conflicts were multiplied by earthquakes, which in turn affected development and infrastructure. In addition to Libya, where the population of Derna was already in a fragile situation as a result of conflict and repeated violence, and with the collapse of two dams, the governorate was flooded, resulting in more internal displacement.

With the launching of the Arab Strategy for Youth, Peace and Security in Jordan last August, which aims to develop the role of youth in peace-building processes and overcome religious, ethnic and sectarian differences while establishing peace in the region, I would like to propose some recommendations, as internally displaced people rarely participate directly in peace processes due to the formal and high-level nature of these processes, the lack of skills and capacities to participate, and



the risks to IDPs, such as fear of reprisals. For such processes to be effective, negotiations must include real input and take into account the specific needs of internally displaced persons; Where the participation of internally displaced persons in peace processes is not possible or desirable, complementary approaches can be effective. These approaches include advocacy by international mediators during formal negotiations and the promotion of the legal rights of internally displaced persons through international, regional and national mechanisms.

Displaced people are not just victims of armed conflict. They are often pivotal to the success of peace efforts. The participation of internally displaced persons in these processes increases the likelihood of reaching a peace agreement. The return of internally displaced persons to their places of origin and resettlement elsewhere can help restore calm, the rule of law, economic recovery, and extend state authority throughout the country. Failure to engage internally displaced persons reduces the likelihood of success of return and resettlement programmes.





Nobel 2024 raise many questions Is it Time to Draw a Line?

Huda Nada - Statistics - senior

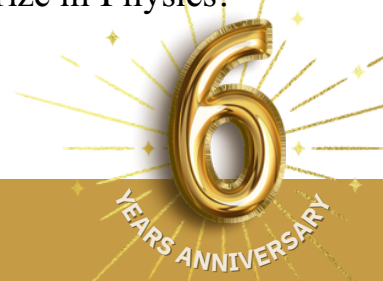


All eyes were on Sweden this week due to the Nobel Prize announcements. The award that was established by the Swedish scientist Alfred Nobel in the late 19th century. The Nobel Prize consists of set of prizes: the Nobel Prize in Physics, awarded for research and discoveries in the field of physics; the Nobel Prize in Chemistry, awarded for achievements in chemistry; the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine, awarded for discoveries in medical fields; the Nobel Prize in Literature, awarded to writers who have done an outstanding performance in literature;

the Nobel Peace Prize, awarded to individuals or organizations that contribute to the achievement of peace; and the Sveriges Riksbank Prize in Economic Sciences in Memory of Alfred Nobel, awarded in the field of economics.

On Tuesday, October 8, the Nobel Prize in Physics was announced, awarded to John J. Hopfield, an American physicist, and Geoffrey E. Hinton, a Canadian computer scientist. This was in recognition of their research in the field of 'machine learning' using artificial neural networks.

However, why is there criticism surrounding the awarding of a computer scientist with the Nobel Prize in Physics?





some argue that pure physics, which focuses on studying the fundamental laws of nature, should remain separate from technological applications. They believe that the contributions of Hopfield and Hinton focus more on the computational side of artificial intelligence, rather than fundamental physics. They see this as an overlap between the sciences, specifically physics and computer science, emphasizing that physics studies fundamental natural phenomena and that computers are merely tools.

On the other hand, some argue that advances in contemporary technology, particularly in the field of computing, have made it feasible to apply intricate physical ideas to the resolution of issues in other fields, such as artificial intelligence. Modern artificial intelligence relies primarily on deep learning algorithms, which are based on physical ideas like backpropagation drawn from neuroscience and artificial neural networks that simulate the functioning of the human brain. Furthermore, because AI technologies are being used to evaluate enormous volumes of data, find novel patterns, and even suggest new scientific theories, they have revolutionized the field of physics.

Thus, the question still stands: why do computer scientists receive Nobel Prize for physics? There are several causes. To begin with, computer tools are now essential to physical study. These resources are utilized for data analysis, pattern recognition, and experiment simulation. Furthermore, new avenues in physics have been made possible by developments in computing, such as the rise of artificial intelligence and supercomputers. In contemporary physics, cooperation between computer scientists and physicists has become crucial for resolving challenging issues.

There are two schools of thought: the first regards computer science as nothing more than a tool, while the second holds that computer science is essentially grounded in physical principles and that it aids in the discovery of physically challenging problems. Do you believe that the Nobel committee will rescind its decision in light of recent technical advancements and institute a new award, such as the Nobel Prize for Computer Science, to recognize and reward outstanding contributions to computer science and artificial intelligence? Or will things stay the same, with computer scientists receiving recognition for their achievements as part of the Nobel Prize in Physics and physicists and computer scientists continuing to argue over the same prize? And will we witness such debate next year?





The Rat Race

Sara Basheer - Economics - Third Level

Within the current societal and economic pressures, specially in low and middle-income countries like Egypt, it is no surprise to see more people being forced into a whirlwind of work, just for the sake of survival and securing their basic human needs, starting from food, to affording shelter and healthcare. Despite of the meaning of work they do, they keep selling hours of their lives for whatever wage they can find simply to cover the skyrocketing costs of living. Most of this segment do not even have the luxury to take time off to find another more meaningful job, because they are in need for a wage that keeps a roof

over their head and food on their table, with no privilege to advocate for any issues or for those who are in need.

What might be surprising is to see the privileged ones going into the same trap of working for the sake of their personal benefit, regardless of whether this work contributes to the good of the society. This has led work to be devoid of its main purpose, as now people work for the endless pursuit of money, wealth, and social status, rather than contributing to the good of the society, enhancing human life and well-being, and forcing positive change in the society.

It is “The Rat Race”, where most of people are climbing career ladders, within a fierce environment of high competition, to achieve their own personal selfish goals, starting from collecting money, to achieving a certain social status, regardless of actually having a positive influence on their surroundings.

In this race meeting someone who does their job because it is for the good of the society or because they truly love it has become a rare occurrence. Also, people in this rat race tend to be unwilling to quit this trap, mainly due to feeling incapable of having a true impact to end this endless cycle.

The reason why people are reluctant to escape this trap is the capitalist system that is monopolized by giant corporations, which has conditioned us to believe that we are solitary creatures looking out only for ourselves and only through individual actions we can decide our fate, which eventually led us to lose our collective power.

“We have nothing to do”, a mindset that has been programmed into us by the capitalism practices imposed by major entities, which turned us from a potential active educated influential individual in the society to an apathetic worker drones who accept the status quo. Those practices guarantee that even if people become aware of what needs to be changed and there exists a problem, they will have no idea how to change it.

It is crucial to know that the “we have nothing to do” mindset will never lead us to a better future for us and for the upcoming generations, and we need to believe that, throughout the history, the drivers of change have always been through mass movements, and through believing in one’s responsibility to be part of the generation that forces change.

