GIVING A VOICE

To Informal Areas of Cairo
Pre & Post 25th of January Revolution

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Pre – Revolution

Action is taken independently from the government
An example for local initiatives that took place in a governmental school.

Upgrading was held financially by the students and the staff of the school without requesting any help from formal authorities.

This is a primitive landscape seating that the students participated in designing with the staff supervising the school’s upgrading.

Gamal Abdel-Nasser Secondary School for Girls Dar El-Salam, Cairo

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During the Revolution

Voices were not heard
Harsh and false accusations have been pointed at Informal Areas during the 18 days of protest, especially at the start of acts of violence and robbery that took place at that time causing a huge threat to all the inhabitants of the formal part of the city.
Local Media has intentionally thrown all the guilt on residents of Informal Areas, claiming that it was an expected reaction from the “poor sector” of the society to revenge from upper classes due to the oppression they’ve been living under along the ruling period of Mubarak’s System.
On the other hand, Informal areas were being attacked by thieves and thugs as well, and they used their self-created security systems of local committees to secure & watch their neighborhoods.

These actions that we as formal residents have done spontaneously in the absence of safety & security.
Post – Revolution

Expectations began to rise
After Mubarak’ stepped down, an overall feeling of ownership returned to every Egyptian, that feeling was even stronger for people living in Informal Areas...

Expectations of being heard and seen was the biggest of all and what was more surprising is that there were already some action steps taken, like gathering data of those who are unemployed to present them to anyone who is willing to help.
A workshop owner had a suggestion and a hope from the new government system, that if the taxes are reduced he can employ more workers & if this scenario is applied on multi-layers it can solve a big part of the un-employment issue.
Through the experience of giving these areas a voice after the tremendous event of the revolution, the outcome was surprisingly unexpected, residents of IAs advocated for themselves & their properties with full heart, showing a great deal of potentials in upgrading and a better life they built it themselves.

Ready to open channels of conversation with the other side (formal) to unleash the real image of a structured, organized, self-sufficient and productive community.
Giving the Voice

Taking Action