**Eshraka Sumrain**

**JRMC 202 – Multimedia Writing**

**Dr. Kim Fox**

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**Interview Transcript – Kamel Sumrain**

**Interviewee**: I’m Kamel Sumrain, I’m 44 years old.

**Interviewer:** Yes and as I understand it you’re an alumni at AUC?

**Interviewee**: No, actually I’ve been at AUC but I didn’t really graduate from AUC.

**Interviewer:** Oh really, when when did you go to AUC?

**Interviewee**: Uhhh, I started in uhh 89.

**Interviewer:** Ok.

**Interviewee**: And I left like mid of 92, 1992.

**Interviewer:** Oh, uhh why is that, why did you leave?

**Interviewee**: Well, that was the days of the first Gulf War.

**Interviewer:** Mhm.

**Interviewee**: My parents used to live in Kuwait, that time.

**Interviewer:** Mhm.

**Interviewee**: And uhh, they’ve been paying my fees at the AUC, so everything just changed all of a sudden after the Iraqi invasion, well they have to leave Kuwait to Jordan. Meanwhile I have to leave Egypt also to Jordan.

**Interviewer:** Oh Ok, where did you transfer to?

**Interviewee**: Uhh, I joined the appline – Applied Science University at Jordan.

**Interviewer:** What major?

**Interviewee**: Political Science again.

**Interviewer:** Oh so you’re, you also studied political science in AUC?

**Interviewee**: Exactly yes.

**Interviewer:** Could you, tell me a little bit about your time in uhh, in Egypt, I mean, you are a Palestinian-Jordanian, and umm, so basically my question is, how was it like for you as a Palestinian living in Egypt all alone for the first time?

**Interviewee**: Well, first of all, I’m a Jordanian from a Palestinian origins, let me put it this way, and there’s a big difference here, between the Egyptians in general and the community in AUC. For example, as an Egyptian for, in general you know, there’s this stereotype Egyptians that have no enough information or education to know our, about our cause.

**Interviewer:** As in your cause in Palestine.

**Interviewee**: As the Palestinian cause. But that wasn’t really the the, the situation in the AUC. Peoples there are understanding, uhh, well educated, diversified community, where you have a lot of points of views where you can uhh, discuss and uhh, analyze. But outside of AUC, it was really uh, horrible.

**Interviewer:** Really (laughs)?

**Interviewee**: Yes.

**Interviewer:** Why? In what way?

**Interviewee**: Well, it’s the same language you hear from everyone. Like you Palestinians, we do this for you, we do that for you.

**Interviewer:** Like a charity case?

**Interviewee**: We fight for the, for the purpose of uhh bringing your country back and, I used to tell them, please you are fighting to get Sinai back. Nobody was fighting for Palestine, neither Jordan, Syria, Lebanon, whatever. Because there was actually no Palestine that time. Everybody was trying hard to bring his occupied lands back, whether Golan Heights, uhh, Southern of Lebanon, Sinai peninsula. That wasn’t really the case in AUC.

**Interviewer:** Mhm.

**Interviewee**: So you can say we’re suffering, talking to the people outside the AUC. That’s why I still uhh, have some good feelings about the community there in AUC.

**Interviewer:** Ok and umm, I’ve did, I’ve done some research and I found out that, actually during your time in in AUC, uhh, around 89, uhh, 90, umm, the first Palestinian president of the Student Union was elected.

**Interviewee**: Yeah, that that’s really interesting you know. We didn’t have this privilege since 1981. Since the Sadat assassination actually. There was no Palestinian student union that time, so the first time we were able to elect our uhh, student uhh, union president, was in that year, it was interesting.

**Interviewer:** Have you voted for him?

**Interviewee**: Yes we did, and our candidate won the elections, Mr. uhh, Mahdi Dajjani.

**Interviewer:** Yes yes.

**Interviewee**: Still I remember him.

**Interviewer:** That’s that’s the name, correct.

**Interviewee**: Yeah.

**Interviewer:** Ok and umm, since you spoke a little about your uhh, your time in Egypt with regards to umm, the way you were treated as a Palestinian, and since you were a political science major, umm, I , I wanted to ask you a little bit about the situation in Egypt now, because you know there’s this new stereotype emerged that Hamas, uhh, in Palestine and uhh, basically anyone really related to Palestine now-a-days is considered somewhat of a terrorist. There’s this big stereotype against Palestinians now, would you say that? Would you say that’s correct or?

**Interviewee**: Yeah that’s what’s happening now. You can just watch the media.

**Interviewer:** Mhm.

**Interviewee**: Read the newspapers. Its all in the same line, one direction, same language, I mean it’s really, uhh, disappointing, let me say it, say it this way. Now they call cooperation with Israel as a coordination. But, coordination with Palestinian authority or Hamas in Gaza for example, that’s called now a conspiracy or it’s a crime. Now it’s really amazing how things have changing.

**Interviewer:** Mhm.

**Interviewee**: Taking into consideration that after the occupation of Gaza in 1967, Gaza was really under the Egyptian authority and even the Egyptian used to put the mayor there. It was practically belong to Egypt those days, so there’s a very big responsibility here for the Egyptians. It was considered as a part and the Israeli occupied that part of Palestine while they were under the protection of the Egyptians. So there’s a big historical responsibility here. Specially Palestinians that time were not allowed to make an army or whatever.

**Interviewer:** Mhm.

**Interviewee**: To defend their lands.

**Interviewer:** Mhm.

**Interviewee**: Now if you look at the situation now a days.

**Interviewer:** Mhm.

**Interviewee**: For example if Israel bombed Syria, or Lebanon, at the same day, a speaker from either of these two governments will come on the TV and press conferences claims that they have the right to, umm.

**Interviewer:** Fir back.

**Interviewee**: Fire back, but they will determine when and where. But if Israel for example bombed Gaza, at the same hour more than a hundred missile will be launched from Gaza to Israel.

**Interviewer:** Mhm.

**Interviewee**: Is that terrorism? Thank you, I rest my case.

**Interviewer:** (laughs) Ok well, it was very nice uhh having to sit and talk with you and just before I end the uhh the interview I just wanted to make sure that you’re ok with uhh us putting this interview online on the AUC forum.

**Interviewee**: No its ok but I just like to add one more thing here.

**Interviewer:** Sure of course.

**Interviewee**: When I finished uhh at the Applied Science University, I joined Jordanian University where I make my masters degree in Political Science.

**Interviewer:** Mhm.

**Interviewee**: And my thesis were about the negotiations for the peace in the Middle East.

**Interviewer:** Mmm.

**Interviewee**: Where I have to review all the talks, the one in public, and the one behind doors between the Arabs and Israel, and specially with be-between the Palestinians and Israel.

**Interviewer:** Mhm.

**Interviewee**: Like in Oslo one for example. So you can say I know what I’m talkin about here.

**Interviewer:** Mhm.

**Interviewee**: I mean negotiations about the peace in the Middle East is the biggest issue here.

**Interviewer:** Mhm, Not I, I would argue that for the entire would actually right now.

**Interviewee**: Exactly yeah. So, any further questions you-

**Interviewer:** And I understand that this is uhh this topic is very dear to your heart since one of your own brothers uhh.

Yeah.

**Interviewer:** Gave gave up his life for for this cause.

**Interviewee**: Oh yeah yeah that was in 19-uhh-82 during the Israeli invasion.

**Interviewer:** Mhm.

**Interviewee**: To Lebanon.

**Interviewer:** Mhm.

**Interviewee**: When Areal Sharon uhh was the leader of the army. That uhh year where they occupied Beirut. That was the first Arabic capital to be occupied by the Israelis. Yeah and that was for the the purpose of just putting these Palestinians in the boats, the them in the sea away from Israel. So Israel can feel peace and with a very big silence from all Arab countries.

**Interviewer:** Well thank you again Mr. Kamel for joining me today I must say [Interviewee: You’re welcome] I I truly do appreciate you giving up your time to sit with me, and umm, well that’s it, thank you (laughs).

**Interviewee**: You’re welcome. Good luck, take care.

**Interviewer:** Thank you so much.