

Be safe O Egypt

By Rania Ezzat

Live Performance

4 minutes

With Eslami ya Misr (Be safe O Egypt), Classic national anthem (from 1923-1936-)

Translated from Arabic and projected on wall.

Traffic gallery, Dubai

Wednesday 9 February 2011

...My feelings right now are immeasurable. Crying and laughing as I am writing this statement. It is Friday 11 February 2011, at 9:15 pm (Dubai time), He had just stepped down few minutes ago...

Be safe O Egypt was performed two days ago. The revolution started in Egypt on January 25th 2011, and I was feeling frustrated not to be part of the protests in Cairo. Hence, decided to do a half performance, half protest as my humble contribution.

In the performance, I arrive in the hall of the gallery, with a heavy heart, listened to the hymn. With respect, I put my right hand on my heart where my soul is. I wiped the red lipstick from my lips and marked my heart, as if a vow is being made while listening to the verses of this poem.

I cut my hair with scissors leaving it to fall on the floor in front of the spectators as sacrifice.

At the end, I kneel down with my hands crossed like a pleading pharaoh.

I got up and left the hall adorning myself with the Egyptian flag.

Be safe O Egypt is a classical hymn revived through this live performance saluting the spontaneous Egyptian revolution that started January 25 2011-. A tribute to the brave ones that sacrificed their lives for us and to this peaceful revolution that brought the people back together liberating our minds and hearts from fear. I dedicate this performance to the free spirit of Egyptians and to our beloved Egypt.

