W-T-W Honors Doaa Eladl

Doaa Eladl drew the cartoon, which inaugurates our anti-corruption campaign. With a light touch, but also a sharpshooter's target, she uses her feminine wiles to illustrate anti-corruption as a floor swept clean by a homemaker. Cartoon after cartoon she demonstrates a deft financial touch combined with political acumen.



Eladl is unquestionably a superb cartoonist. In addition to her consummate graphic skills, Doaa has punctured the façade of corrupt politicians and citizens. At personal risk and in the face of government clampdowns, Doaa daily points out the hazards of corruption.

Famous as an Egyptian cartoonist, she began publishing her drawings in 2007 in the Al Dostor newspaper, Rose Al Youssef Magazine and Sabah El Kheir Magazine. Now, her cartoons appear on the prominent newspaper Al Masry Al Youm. In 2009 she was the first woman cartoonist to receive the award of journalism excellence in Caricature in Egypt.

Recently, Ms. Eladl became the first cartoonist in Egypt to face the charge of religious contempt. A pubic prosecutor appointed by current Egyptian President Morsi has ordered an immediate investigation into her case. Until now, however, Egypt has tolerated (and sometimes enjoyed) Doaa's barbed comments.

Doaa writes: I started drawing cartoons about 8 years ago for the in Al-Dostour Constitution newspaper. During the first part of my career, I drew political cartoons critical of the former regime of...Mubarak, and the National Democratic Party [the party in power at that time]. I also published social comics in Sabah Al-Kheir (Good morning) magazine, then in "Rose Al-Youssef" magazine. Several years later, I started working for the Al-Masry Al-Youm [Egyptians Today] newspaper, a high circulation paper in Egypt.

The art of Caricature is seditious. A cartoonist always has something to say. I find that my talent allows me to criticize financial, political and social issues. I never run out of inspiration for my caricatures whether to praise or object to an issue.

When I first started in this profession, a majority of the readers thought I was a man! That's because the readers couldn't imagine a woman drawing a caricature, especially professional, political ones. But with time, I became popular, so now there is no problem anymore. In the end, good ideas always find their way to the public, whether the cartoonist is a man or a woman

There has been no improvement in women's freedom since the fall of the Mubarak's regime because the current system is not significantly different. In some ways it is worse. They use religion only for political gain. I am a Muslim, but I feel that the Muslim Brotherhood demonizes Islam.

Before the revolution took place, I was casually drawing about women's issues and their problems, but now I am compelled to draw these cartoons about women in order to defend my existence and my personal freedom which are threatened under the rule of the Muslim Brotherhood.

The public's reaction to my work is divided. Some think a wonderful caricature on a politically hot subject is important. Others see it as sacrilegious to Muslim rule,. Still others think I should find a more subtle way to criticize, a way that is less shocking.



In 2009 Doaa received the award of journalism excellence in Caricature in Egypt. We honor her for her work against corruption.