

**NO, YOUR EXCELLENCY, MR. MINISTER  
YOUR DUTY IS TO STAY .. NOT TO LEAVE**

Surprisingly, in the wake of the Beni Sweif fire, Minister of Culture Farouk Hosni took a step to which we have not been accustomed since a long time, namely the submission of his resignation as Minister of Culture, or more so, placing the Ministry at the hands of the President, after this catastrophic incident that took the lives of 46 victims and injured another 22.

Resigning under such conditions is an act that displays great sensitivity and a high sense of responsibility, with a desire to be held responsible on behalf of one and all, regardless of the amount of responsibility shouldered by others in various positions, in this tragic event.

Actually, the perpetrator of this atrocious and tragic incident is not anonymous. We all know who is responsible.

The perpetrator is the same as in other similar incidents, in spite of different scenarios and outcomes. Such incidents come in dozens, every day.

This criminal, Mr. Minister, is the negligence and lassitude that been boring into our lives and squandering all our positive resources.

It has been besieging us, day in day out, with a bulk of negative aspects that we alone endure, apart from the rest of the world.

Take note, Mr. President, that discipline & negligence, as well as vigilance & carelessness, are the same as good & evil, both revolving in an orbit, fighting one another, without one being able to dominate the other. The best that could

be achieved by good is to encompass evil within a smaller area, not allowing it to expand and spread.

If we follow suit of your noble gesture of submitting your resignation, then we would urge ministers, as well as heads of agencies, in charge of combating theft, drug trafficking, customs evasion and administrative corruption to submit their resignation.

This we do not ask for, because we are well aware that we have to continue our diligent combat against crimes like theft, drug trafficking, customs evasion, ... etc.

Our ultimate goal is to encompass these crimes within a narrow circle. However, to stop them completely, or eliminate them altogether, is impossible. This could only be realized in "Utopia", but not here on the planet where we live.

In the realm of talking of previous fire incidents within various institutions and authorities, there comes to our mind, first and foremost, the fire of the old Opera House, the Upper Egyptian train incident and the fire of Hotel Sheraton Heliopolis.

All these incidents were tragic, but the march continued and the will persisted to contain material and human losses. At the same time, no official ever submitted his resignation in such occasions, regardless of his post or share of responsibility.

Hence, we urge Minister of Culture Farouk Hosni to tip the scale towards his obligation and national duty, which he has been doing, faithfully and aptly, throughout his long career, managing the organization of cultural work as best as possible.

During his time, great achievements have been made, not only at the local level, in the form of libraries in villages and small towns, provincial museums and the Project of Ancient Cairo, but also, extensively, at the international level. This has restored Egypt, culturally, on the conscience map of the free world.

Doors were open wide, not only for tourism, but also for allowing Egypt to ask to retrieve its robbed antiquities from all over the world, a matter that has ended in the abortion of many attempts of antique-smuggling traders.