

World E-News August 2013



empowering young people
SPACE | TRANSFORMATION | IMPACT



YMCA Change Agents from Portugal and France

WORLD YMCA NEWS

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Listen to the new YMCA Song. “It’s Time” by Chemphe

- August 23, 2013



[Listen to the song >>>](#)

Listen & share the new YMCA Song - “It’s Time” by Chemphe - The theme song for the Change Agents performance on stage of the YMCA Europe Festival. - YMCAs are invited to widely use the song for its programmes and events.

It’s Time

#

Sometimes you feel down,
You don’t know what to do
Looks like the world is all against you
And everything is burning down

#

The time has come to realize
Because you need an open eye
In faith we rise up
Am strong and I can’t give up
I say

Chorus

It’s time to go around
Time to take a chance

Time to find my space and grow
Stand for who I am
Without any strings,
I wanna try a bit of everything.
Welcome to the YMCA aaaaaa
We have fun while we drive change
Oh oh oo(6x)

#

Its time to celebrate
So don't you hesitate
This night is the night to remember
And everything is gonna be great
(We gonna dance)

#

Cos time has come to realize
Because you need an open eye
In faith we rise up
Am strong and i can't give up
I say

Chorus

It's time to go around
Time to take a chance
Time to find my space and grow
Stand for who I am
Without any strings,
I wanna try a bit of everything.
Welcome to the YMCA aaaaaa
We have fun while we drive change
Oh oh oo(6x)

#

I connect myself (aww aw a awww)
I will break this shell (aww aw awww)
I will speak loud cos I am free
Am the change that I wanna see

#

Time to go around
Time to take a chance
Time to find my space and grow
Stand for who I am
Hey aww aww
Yeah

Chorus

It's time to go around
Time to take a chance

Time to find my space and grow
Stand for who I am
Without any strings,
I wanna try a bit of everything.
Welcome to the YMCA aaaaaa (I am free, I am free yea)
We have fun while we drive change

Come on lets go
Oh oh oo(6x)
Love, I wanna be

It's time to go around
Time to take a chance
Stand for who I am
Without any strings

Composed by: Chemphe and Romulo Dantas
Collaboration: Sebastian Vogt

[Listen to the song >>>](#)

Once upon a time, change comes...

- August 23, 2013



During the Love2Live Festival in Prague organized by YMCA Europe, 200 YMCA Change Agents from 72 countries came together to meet for the first time, face-to-face.

The journey for these YMCA young leaders has been a long one and their role is to infuse new energy for the organization to be more aligned with the Youth Empowerment Agenda and to advance its impact globally. While many more young leaders have been assigned the role of Change Agent, certain challenges prevented 100% of this group joining the activities in Prague.

From 5th to 9th August, the Change Agents were exposed to training focused on their role in the change process within the global YMCA, Global Citizenship and two major global initiatives -One Million Voices Research and World Council 2014.

A very motivated group maximized the time spent with deep discussions and challenging questions. As this was a genuine change and empowerment process, we came across moments of confusion and frustration as well as high levels of motivation and enthusiasm.

The programme facilitators were taken note of the feedback from the group and made changes to the initial programme in order to meet expectations and create more time for group discussions, bonding and debriefing. The participants clearly appreciated those efforts and recognized the contribution made by assigned facilitators. .

The training, nevertheless, was only part of the event in Prague. The afternoons and evenings were full of activities and the Change Agents had a role to play in interacting and collecting stories of empowerment from the 5,000 participants of the festival. Several events at the

main stage exemplified the YMCA Change Model of Space | Transformation| Impact.

At the opening ceremony two Change Agents delivered a statement to acknowledge the existence of the Change Agent initiative and to stress the relevance of our global movement. During the following days, Change Agents from three geographic regions shared their stories of empowerment using videos they have produced. In the last day, two other representatives of the group were chosen to give an interview on the main stage describing the week of training in Prague and leaving a message motivation and enthusiasm.

The conclusion of the week of Change Agents in Prague was a collective performance of a new [YMCA Song specially produced for the occasion. The audience engaged with the Change Agents dancing and singing “Its Time”, the new “YMCA hit”](#)

Are you curious about what took place in Prague? If so, [you can see pictures](#), videos and [listen to the new song](#)

The post 2015 agenda - Young People Getting Involved

- August 23, 2013



It is well known that in 2015 there will be a new framework launched by the United Nations to replace the current Millennium Development Goals. In order to continue to expand a global conversation around those issues, a series of talks are ongoing and YMCA will be closely involved in some of these initiatives.

Starting August, UNICEF, UN-Habitat, the Major Group for Children and Youth and UNV (United Nations Volunteers) will be moderating an e-discussion on the theme “Children and Young People living in Urban Areas”. All YMCA young leaders are invited to take part in this initiative.

The conversation will focus on four sub topics:

- Environmental challenges like climate change and natural disasters
- Demographic migrations towards urban areas and access to services
- Preventing and protecting from discrimination, abuse, violence, exploitation and trafficking, respect of the human rights of children, advance gender equality
- Social cohesion and civic engagement through local action

To participate in this discussion, please access the following link.

<http://www.worldwewant2015.org/node/349241>

YMCA Situation in Egypt

- August 18, 2013



Samy is fine, Canadian YMCA friends talked with him yesterday. They also had to make numerous attempts before they could come through. I think the lines going in to Egypt must be overloaded by heavy traffic from around the world. I continue to receive automatic messages from the operator telling me things I cannot understand.

But there are no alarming news from the YMCA side of things. No new attacks on buildings and seemingly all YMCA people unharmed, as long as we are informed.

Samy continues to underline the importance of the moral support from YMCA people from all corners of the world. He is not particularly focused on material or financial support, but that we know about them and their situation and that they can feel the friendship from all of us in days of violence and fear and confusion about the future.

I would like to say thank you to all of you who have responded by sending small messages of solidarity and support. It has been read by our Egyptian friends and it is all very much appreciated. Please keep posting your thoughts on our website and social media.

Let us continue to pray for the people of Egypt, and especially for our friends engaged in the Egyptian YMCA, let us pray for a good future for this great country.

FRESH REPORT VIA MOBILE FROM ALEXANDRIA AUGUST 18:

ONE OF OUR 270 CHANGE AGENTS IS FROM ALEXANDRIA, SHE IS RASHA HENRY, AND SHE

WRITES TONIGHT:

"Now its like 70% safe in Egypt and today I am going to my Alexandria YMCA really I missed it and the roads and people feel safe not like before please continue to pray for Egypt I trust in Jesus that he can pass this days on peace thanks again for you prays.

Egypt YMCAs - Update August 17 - night

I have tried all night to get in touch with Samy in Cairo, but without result. He is probably very busy, or the telephone connections are really bad. I will continue to try to reach Samy, but there is absolutely no reason to believe anything is wrong. Sometimes the connection with Egypt is very difficult. And sometimes Samy is on the phone for a very long time. I will try to get more information from Egypt. More tomorrow.

YMCAs in Egypt - Update August 16 - night

I have just had my daily conversation with Samy Armia Nashed. Because of the curfew in Cairo starting from 19.00, Samy have had to leave the office early to make sure that he comes home before it is illegal to move on the streets of Cairo.

Today there has been trouble and problems very close to the YMCA building in Cairo, only 100-200 metres away from the building.

Friday was expected to be a day full of demonstrations and clashes, and many people have been killed in Cairo and also in Alexandria there have been at least 7 deaths today.

Samy is in regular contact with his National YMCA board, and also with all the 26 local YMCAs. Samy says there are many positive comments and grateful reactions from ordinary YMCA people in response to all the comments and statements of support from around the globe, as they can read on the internet and social media.

I am asked to share the gratefulness and comfort they all feel because they are not left alone and they feel part of a big, world wide movement of brothers and sisters.

Today there has been less dangerous focus on the YMCA buildings around Egypt, either because the police has set aside more resources to protect them, or, as in Asyut YMCA, a big property with a garden inside, where the young YMCA members are staying inside the property, in the garden, to make sure that if anybody tries to burn their YMCA, they can extinguish the fire.

Samy sounds more relaxed today, more at ease. Yesterday was a heavy day, very difficult. Today at least no new YMCA building has been attacked, and in Egypt just now lack of bad news for a little while is a big relief. But as Samy tells me, the country is on fire, both in Cairo and in Alexandria and all the way to upper Egypt.

We discuss what we can do to assist them, and still Samy is trying to get more information from the different parts of the country.

As soon as we have more concrete overview of the damage, we will come back to possible assistance to the YMCA in Egypt.

At the same time we hear different viewpoints from within Egypt, and from people in the middle of the turmoil reactions are strong to the different perspectives from the news on television and newspapers.

Meanwhile we pray for Egypt, for all people of Egypt and for a better future for this great country, having suffered so much so long.

And for Samy and his staff and volunteers in Cairo and all over Egypt, for Magdy and his people in Alexandria, for our Change Agents in Egypt - God bless you all in these terrible days of fear and violence. We are all close to you in our thoughts and prayers.

YMCAs in Egypt - Update August 15 - 21:45

Samy Nashed is the leader of YMCA in Egypt. His voice is sad, he sounds terribly tired. He is responsible for 26 local YMCAs in a big country. He walks to the office every day. I know the way, I know the building, Samy and I walked there together in happier days. It is a beautiful YMCA building, a bit of the old school. Nice architecture, a hostel with space for many young people, offices, meeting rooms, activity rooms. A cafeteria, a watchman at the gate. And Samy normally with a great smile and his mobile phone in his hand. That man has not ten minutes without a phone call.

Now he is tired and sad. He is calling the 26 local YMCAs every day. He walks different roads to the office, and it is not easy to find a way, because roads are closing down and there are all kinds of disturbances. But he gets to the office every day. And start calling around.

We had a long conversation tonight again. He asks me to say thank you to all the friends around the world for their thoughts and prayers.

He also tells me that at least 4 YMCAs have been under attack, the one in Menia in Upper Egypt is burnt out, another one is damaged and two other seems to have been rescued. Young YMCA people are trying to protect their buildings and put out fires.

Samy is warning them against getting involved in fights, and so far there is no information that any YMCA people have been hurt. But Samy is not able to go to the local YMCAs, trains are not working, cars are stopped and there is no way to travel.

All YMCAs are closed and Samy has appealed to the authorities to protect the YMCA buildings, but they are busy protecting government buildings and have no capacity to look after any other buildings.

Phone Call - August 14

I just spoke (August 14 at night) with Samy Armia Nashed, General Secretary in Egypt YMCA in Kairo. Menia YMCA in upper Egypt was burnt today by a Molotove Grenade, but staff and volunteers are good, nobody hurt there.

YMCA in Kairo was closed today and most of the other YMCAs in Egypt, and so far all staff and volunteers are safe and unhurt.

Samy told me that 18 churches were burnt today, and he asked me to share his greetings with all YMCA friends around the world and ask all of you to pray for YMCA in Egypt and for the people of Egypt.

In times like these it is important to know that there are friends all around the globe and that we are close to our brothers and sisters in Egypt tonight and in the days to come.

A few days ago I met with the Egyptian participants at the YMCA Festival in Prague and I met people I was with at a youth training in Alexandria two years ago. Let us keep them in our thoughts and prayers tonight!

Johan Vilhelm Eltvik