



Sadek and his friend Ali Abouzeid pictured in their school uniforms in March 2012. Because of the protests, it was often unsafe for students to attend school. Photo provided by Paulo Sadek.

Though Sadek is no longer in Egypt, many of his friends and relatives still live there, and he gets information from them. The biggest change that's recently come about is the state of emergency, which was declared on Aug. 14 following the expiration of the emergency law on May 31.

"The state of emergency says that from 9 p.m. to 5 a.m., no one can move in the streets," Sadek said. "Everybody's inside, and that's really hard for us because Cairo's active 24 hours, almost like New York. The army is in all the streets. Regularly the street is really crowded, but you'll only find four or five people moving in the street at 9 or 10 p.m.," Sadek said.

Now violence is no longer as much of a concern, but other issues still discourage Sadek from returning to Egypt. The political turmoil took a heavy toll on the economy, and protesters damaged many public buildings, including the school Sadek attended.

"I want to visit, but not now. It takes years to be a good country after [a revolution]. Now, everybody is fighting. Every group wants something different in the constitution, and I don't think it's going to be right for seven, eight, 10 years," Sadek said.

While Sadek will definitely visit Egypt in the future, he probably won't move back.

"I can go back and forth [between Egypt and America], or if it's really safe in Egypt, I could go live in my home country, but after 10 years, I will probably be American," Sadek said.

Emily Levinson
• Feature editor •

