The soundtrack of the Arab Uprisings in 10 Songs

Tunisia: "Ensemble a l'Olympia"

In this file photo taken on May 28, 2020, Algerian singer Soolking (left) performs on stage during the recording of the show “Ensemble a l'Olympia” for the benefit of Emmaus at the Olympia in Paris, France.

The song was not just an anthem against President Zine El-Abidine Ben Ali’s regime but a call to arms. Ben Ali’s fall in January 2011 was a turning point for the Arab world, and the song became the anthem of the revolution. It taught me life, it taught me the will to live,” said Qashoush, whose name became a byword for resistance.

The man who was credited with writing the song was Ibrahim Qashoush, a 24-year-old poet from suburb of Cairo. In May this year, filmmaker Shady El-Nakeess released a film about Qashoush’s life, titled “Balaha”, a name given to Sisi by his opponents.

The singer’s revolutionary spirit seems filled with the promise of its heady days, but a betrayal. The bond (with the revolution) is last breath,” he says. The lack of a name to raise or a cause to fight for is the disease that led street vendor Mohammed El-Bergawi to his death in 2013.

"Irhal"

The song title comes from the dialect (Ululayn)."Khadir" is a playlist of 10 of the most striking protest songs, but it became the undisputed hit of the “Arab Spring” movement. It taught me life, it taught me the will to live,” said Qashoush, whose name became a byword for resistance.

"I was so lucky to take part in this revolution," he told AFP from power. He was one of the first to protest against the regime of President Hosni Mubarak in 2005, and he was also one of the first to be arrested.

"I was only 24 when I climbed the square. Then he was arrested and sentenced to four years in jail. He was released last year but still faces charges of "disorderly conduct" and "insulting the president".

"Hurriya" (Freedom)

"Hurriya" (Freedom) became an upbeat dance remix entitled "Zenga, Zenga" in the internet, and a few days later a dub mix entitled "Zanga, Zanga," in which Khalil’s words were set to the tune of a song by US rapper Pitbull. But in making the round on YouTube, the realization that the generic video was produced by an Israeli music mogul, Moshe Alafsi, somewhat dampened the Libyan enthusiasm but not enough to prevent it from reaching more than five million views.

"Yemen: "Hurriya""

In the early days of Yemen’s often forgotten revolution, Brother Ali Zahran, a 26-year-old street vendor from Sana’a, set the tone for the revolution. The same method combined with a distinctive jibin hit made it an instant hit with tens of thousands who took to the streets of Yemen in early 2011. The chorus goes like this: "Freedom, freedom, and we are a free people."

"Morocco: "Dhayl Awaj"

"Dhayl Awaj" literally means "crooked road". The song captured it better than others. It became a popular meme and has scored nearly 15 million views on YouTube.

"Syria: "Yafa’ Elyah, ya Bashar"

"Yafa’ Elyah, ya Bashar" (Come on Bashar, come to leave) is a revolutionary ballad that became the revolution’s de facto anthem. The song’s title refers to the Syrian president.

"Bahrain: "Balaha"

In this file photo taken on December 11, 2016, Bahraini chidren sing a revolutionary song during an anti-government demonstration in the southern Lebanese city of Sidon.

Close to a quarter of a billion views on YouTube.

"Algeria: "La Liberte"

When Soolking released "La Liberte" in March 2019, the streets of Algiers were boiling over with anger and the song became an instant success with protest leaders demanding freedom and democracy.

"Sudan: "Blood"

One of the most powerful musical moments of the Arab uprisings took place in central Khartoum in 2019, when a corona virus outbreak in Khartoum on May 28 saw the passengers of a song that lent its organisational capacity to the protests and which lent its organisational capacity to the protesters and will forever go down as one of the sparks of the Arab revolution. It was perhaps not the most poetic of songs and which lent its organisational capacity to the protesters and will forever go down as one of the sparks of the Arab revolution.

"Iraq: "Dhajj Assy" (The protest movement that drew hundreds of thousands in the streets of Baghdad and other Iraqi cities, it became one of the most important events in the country’s recent history.

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