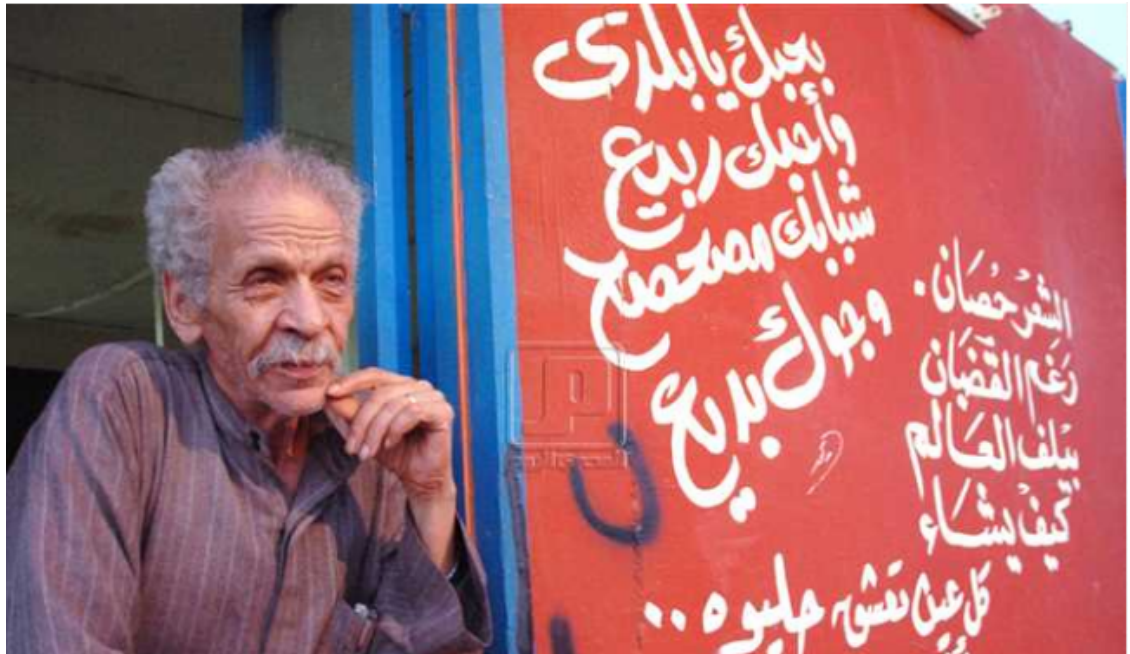


AHMED FOUAD NEGM – A BRIEF BIOGRAPHY



Father's Name: Muhammad Izzat

Mother's Name: Hanem Morsi

Date of Birth: 1929

Date of death: 2013

Place of Birth: Kfoor Negm

Nationality: Egyptian

Children: Nawara / Zainab / Afaf

Profession: Poet

His father, a police officer, died on 8 July 1935 when he was six. After that, he had to make his own living. He worked as a house-servant, an agricultural worker, an ironer, and a tailor. Negm had sixteen siblings. Got married several times. The first marriage was to Fatima Mansour with whom he had Afaf. He then married the artist Izzah Balbaa and the writer Safinaz Kazem with whom he had Nawara Negm, a journalist and activist who gained prominence in the Egyptian revolution. After that, he married the famous Algerian theater actress Sonia Mikiew. Lastly, he got married to Omaymah Abd Al-Wahhab with whom they had Zainab. He has three grandchildren from Afaf: Mustafa, Safaa, and Ameinah.

He worked as an employee at the Railways Establishment from 1951 to 1956. Then, he was transferred to the Ministry of Social Affairs and after that, to the Mechanical Transport in Al-Abbassiyah district.

In 1959, he was sentenced to thirty-three months in prison for embezzlement and was released in May 1962. After that, he worked in the Asian-African Solidarity Conference.

In 1964, he worked at the secretariat of the Asian-African Solidarity Organization in Cairo. He stayed there until 1969 when he was arrested on a political charge.

He was arrested in 1981, in a house of two French researchers. These researchers held a press conference in Paris, which was published in the French newspaper *Le Monde*. They said that they were tortured in the Al-Qal`a Prison and that Negm was also tortured in Torrah Prison. While in prison, he declared that he would go on a hunger strike until death if he was not released.

In 2004, and after the establishment of the Kifaya Movement, he became one of the most prominent symbols of popular movements which flourished in Egypt. He wrote a caustic poem called criticizing Gamal Mubarak.

He joined the Al-Wafd Party in mid-June 2010, after Dr Al-Sayed Al-Badawi Shihata won the elections for party leader. However, he resigned in mid-October 2010 due to the crisis that Al-Badawi caused when he sacked Ibrahim Issa, the editor in chief of *Al-Dustour* newspaper, which prominent Wafdists had bought that year.

After the January 25 Revolution, he participated in establishing the Free Egyptians Party.

A film called *Al-Fagomi* (The Impulsive One) based on his personal diary was produced.

NOTES:

A documentary film *A Statement Surrounding a Ticket of a Prisoner*, about Negm's political songs, was hosted by the Al-Jazeera Channel.

See also the film by May Abdalla:

<https://www.aljazeera.com/program/artscape-poets-of-protest/2014/3/15/ahmed-fouad-negm-writing-a-revolution>

Source:

<https://www.jadaliyya.com/Details/30881>