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Local student, teacher describe Egypt during turmoil

by Shantal Parris Riley | FEBRUARY 11, 2011

On Jan. 30, the U.S. State Department announced it would begin to evacuate American citizens from the country. Flights were made available to Americans citizens and their families.

"It was directed toward American tourists who didn't have other evacuation options," Berghahn said. "I had a few evacuation options through my employer." Berghahn said, thus far, she was not concerned about her safety.

Members of Hausner's family, however, felt less secure about him. When it was announced that classes would be postponed for a second week at the university, they made the decision to have him return home.

"We were lucky enough to have insurance with Global Rescue," said his mother, Barbara Hausner.

Global Rescue is a private Boston-based company, specializing in providing emergency medical and security services around the world. Before Hausner's arrival in Egypt, his parents purchased six months of insurance coverage with the company.

A few hours after being contacted by Jeff Hausner's parents, two Global Rescue team members met him outside the gates of the university. "They were local Egyptians in plain clothes," he said. The three drove through several checkpoints to the El Nouzha Airport in Alexandria.

"I was passed on to American men wearing Global Rescue polo shirts," he said. "They had everything planned. I went ahead of about 20 people in line at the airport. We had



Anti-government protesters react as Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak makes a televised statement to his nation in Tahrir Square in downtown Cairo on Thursday.

higher clearance."

Hausner boarded a Boeing 737 plane with Americans and Egyptians onboard. The plane is described as a short-to-medium-range airplane by Boeing. There were weight restrictions for the flight.

"I had to leave a bag behind," he said. "We had to refuel twice, once in Prague and once in Iceland."

Hausner's parents drove through snow and ice to meet him at Dulles Airport in Washington at 3:30 a.m. "We didn't care," said Barbara Hausner. "We were just happy to have him home."