

IN GRENFELL TOWER PUBLIC INQUIRY

WITNESS STATEMENT OF ALMAZ KINFU

1. My name is Almaz Kinfu and I previously lived at 16 Grenfell Tower.
2. Attached to this statement are a number of documents which are exhibited as AK1.
3. I have had an opportunity to read the statement I gave to the police dated 16 June 2017 and I confirm that it is an accurate account of my recollection of the events of 14 June 2017. I have been asked to produce this additional statement in response to a number of questions asked by the Grenfell Tower Inquiry team.
4. At the time of the fire on 14 June 2017, I had lived in Grenfell Tower for 3 - 4 months. I shared the flat with Elsa and Behailu.
5. Exhibited to this statement is a document marked AK1 (A) which is a plan of the flat at 16 Grenfell Tower. I confirm that I slept in the bedroom which is marked 'bedroom 1'.
6. I have been shown a plan of the kitchen in 16 Grenfell Tower which is exhibited to this statement and marked AK 1 (B). I have marked on that document an 'X' which indicates the position of a small fridge. The fridge was situated under the window. I did not use the small fridge. All of us in the flat used the tall fridge freezer which was to the left of the cooker. I do not remember there being any problems with the tall fridge freezer.
7. In between the fridge freezer and the window was a small space in which we kept a cleaning brush. There was no other furniture or cupboards around the window. I cannot recall anything being kept on the window sill.
8. I have been shown a photograph which is exhibited to this statement as AK1 (C). This photograph was taken after the fire and it is of an object which appears to be a large pan. I do not remember seeing that pan before the fire and I did not use it.
9. On the night of the fire, I came home and made a cup of tea in the kitchen. I used the kettle. I then went to my room and went to sleep.

10. I was awoken by the noise of Behailu knocking on my bedroom door. I don't know what time it was. Behailu said 'fire, fire, fridge, fridge'. I opened the bedroom door and I could smell something different, not normal air, different. It was like a burning smell and like a chemical smell and I could taste it. I could not smell it in my room when the door was closed. I went into the corridor of the flat and saw smoke. The smoke was near to the front door which is at the other end of the corridor from the kitchen. I could still see the front door. I was shocked and I can't recall if I could see the other end of the corridor near the kitchen. The lights in the flat were off but light was coming in through the front door and everything seemed cloudy.
11. Two firemen came to the flat and they brought equipment with them.
12. I was shocked and didn't know what to do. My suitcase was near the door in my bedroom and I quickly picked it up as I had some clothes in it. I went into the lobby. I don't remember if there was smoke in the lobby. I went to the stairs and saw two firemen go into the flat. I thought perhaps the firemen might be able to put the fire out. I saw people running down the stairs and so I thought I should leave. I had my suitcase with me and a man asked if I needed help. There was a smell on the stairs and I think there was smoke on the stairs.
13. I have been shown two photographs which are exhibited to this statement and are marked AK 1 (D) and (E). I confirm that photograph D shows me reaching the bottom of the stairs. The man in the red top is holding my suitcase as he helped me with it down the stairs. Photograph (E) shows the man handing the suitcase back to me. The timing on the bottom left hand corner of photograph (E) is recorded as 01.10:51 on 14 June 2017.

I believe that the contents of this statement are true.

Signed 

Print name.... Almaz Kirfu

Date.... 24.10.2018