

WITNESS STATEMENT

Criminal Procedure Rules, r27.2; Criminal Justice Act 1967, s.9; Magistrates' Courts Act 1980, s.5b

Statement of: KEBEDE, BEHAILU

Age if under 18: OVER 18 (if over 18 insert 'over 18')

Occupation: TAXI DRIVER

This statement (consisting of 2 page(s) each signed by me) is true to the best of my knowledge and belief and I make it knowing that, if it is tendered in evidence, I shall be liable to prosecution if I have wilfully stated in it anything which I know to be false, or do not believe to be true.

Signature: BEHAILU KEBEDE

Date: 24/05/2018

Tick if witness evidence is visually recorded ☐ (supply witness details on rear)

This is an English translation of a foreign language statement.

I have been asked by police to answer some further questions relating to the contents and layout of Flat 16, Grenfell Tower.

In my last statement of 16/04/18 I was shown a picture of an electric cooking device which I did not recognise at the time. After speaking to Elsa, I realised this must be a M'tad, which is a sort of hot plate used to make injera, or flat bread, in Ethiopia. I brought this back from Ethiopia over eight years ago but had not used it for a few years. It was normally kept on the kitchen top next to the boiler but I can't remember where it was on the night of the fire. We would move things around in the kitchen often. My girlfriend [REDACTED] was the last person to use it, some time before 2016. It would definitely not have been plugged in on the night of the fire. I have been told it was found by the fridge/freezer, I do not know how it ended up there.

I have also been asked what the "pot" that can be seen on top of the cupboards in one of the photos (exhibit BEK/5) I provided to police is. This is called an "agelgel" and is normally used to store food. It is made of goat skin and dried grass and is about 25 — 30 cm in diameter. I brought it back from Ethiopia a long time ago and I kept it on top of the cupboards by the boiler. It was there on the night of the fire. I kept a phone charger in it and a two straw hats on top of it, as same in exhibit BEK/5. I produce a picture

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of an agelgel as exhibit BEK/11. All my electrical goods I plugged in were standard UK three pin.

I have been asked about the black thermos shown in another photo (exhibit BEK/6). I bought it for [REDACTED] in December 2016, which is when the picture was taken, but she took it back to her flat, so it wasn't there that night. On the night of the fire there were also three bottles of washing up liquid by the sink. Mine was Fairy Liquid but it was almost empty, I don't remember how full the other two were. The metal dish drainer and the knife block were still there. The microwave, toaster and kettle I had there that night but I can't remember where exactly on the worktop they were. There was also a sandwich maker belonging to Elsa or Almaz. I can't remember the make of any of them or the freezer or small fridge. There was a spice rack on top of the cupboards along with a hot water bottle and an empty glass vase. The vase was clear glass in an oval shape, about 30cm high.

I have also been shown a photo of some twisted metal debris (BPS/I). I think this is an all metal three-tier stepladder I used for DIY. I hadn't used it for a long time so I am not sure where I stored it but it could have been in the gap between the broken freezer and the wall. Other than the mop and bucket I mentioned in a previous statement, I do not believe there was anything else in that area of the kitchen.

Regarding the contents of the kitchen cupboard, I did not use the kitchen much at all except to make a cup of tea or fry meat every now and then. I remember having two packets of cereal, Weetabix and oats, in the cupboards. Elsa also kept cereal and dried, organic biscuits and fruit. Almaz cooked a lot, vegetables, bananas and so on. She used the kitchen a lot so I can't say exactly what she had in the cupboards.

I had a half empty litre carton of milk in the fridge door, I don't think I had anything else in there but Almaz and Elsa did have food in there, I don't know what. In the freezer I had a small jar of hot sauce from Ethiopia and two or three Tupperware containers of dried spices from Ethiopia, as seen in BEK/6. I think there was one bag of mixed vegetables in the freezer. Almaz and Elsa also used the freezer, I don't know what they had. There were no cereal packets on top of the fridge/freezer the night of the fire and I don't remember there being anything else on top of it.

I cut out a section of the kitchen unit where I put the fridge/freezer and I also changed the handles on the cupboards to the one seen in the photos I have supplied. I made no other changes to the units. I laid the

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kitchen floor about twenty years ago. It is laminate strips which I think I bought from Homebase. They clicked into place, there was no need for glue. Underneath it was some kind of lining material which the Council had put in.

There was a round, silver coloured metal bin, about 60cm tall, next to the washing machine under the top. It was a pedal bin but the pedal was broken so I had taken the lid off. I don't know where I bought it.

The main door to the kitchen (from the hall) was closed when I went to bed but I'm not sure if I closed it again before leaving the flat after the fire had broken out. The sliding doors were closed.

I cannot be sure if one living room window was open that night, normally I kept them closed but I might have had one open (slanting in) as it was hot. There were three ways of opening the windows, opening inwards or slanting in or out from top or bottom. The windows were all the same in the flat. I can't remember how the kitchen window was open.

The three piece suite in the living room was genuine leather. The dining chairs were metal framed but covered in a faux leather material, very stiff. The fruit bowl in the living room had glass pebbles at the bottom but was mostly full of different individual plastic fruits, all hollow. I had some battery operated white fairy lights with an on and off switch which I hung up on the plant next to the sliding doors for Christmas and I never took down. I had not had them on since Christmas.

The plant pot in photo BEK/3 is ceramic and the one in BEK/8 is white wood.

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