

Witness Name: Thomas Etienne

Statement No.: 1

Exhibits: 4

Dated: 17.10.18

THE GRENFELL TOWER INQUIRY

Witness Statement of Thomas Etienne

I, **Thomas Etienne**, of **Testerton Walk,** , will say as follows:-

1. I was born on . I am a national.
2. I was not a resident of Grenfell Tower. I am not a core participant in the Grenfell Tower Inquiry but I am providing this statement, as a witness to the fire and to introduce video footage that I took on my phone on the morning of the fire.
3. On 13 June 2017, the night before the fire, I was at home, at my above address with my son and my mum.
4. At about 12.30am on the 14th June 2017, I was watching the tv, drifting off into a sleep, when I was woken by the sound of a helicopter and people shouting outside. I looked outside through my window and could see my nephew and his neighbour standing on the grass below the tower. They were shouting and so I went outside to see what was going on.

5. When I was outside of my flat, I was standing right next to the tower and could see it burning. I could see that the fire was going up the side of the building that Helen lived in. I also knew other people who resided in the tower. I immediately called Helen on her mobile. I believe that it was about 12.40am when I called her. This estimation is based on the fact that I left my flat at about 12.30am and about ten minutes had passed.
6. As stated above, not only did I know Helen Gebremeskel but I also knew a number of other people who lived in the tower. However, the first person I called was Helen and I spoke to her. The first time that I spoke to her I believe that she had already left her flat and gone to the flat opposite. The flat that she had gone to was on the other side of the tower which meant it was away from the side of the tower that was on fire at that time.
7. I came off the phone from Helen to call other close friends that were in the tower to see if they were ok.
8. At about 1.15am, I went back into my flat to check on my mum and son. They were both still asleep. After a while the police said that our flats had to be evacuated so I went back in again. I got my mum and son dressed and got some bits together and we all left the flat.
9. At about 1.51am (according to the time on my phone, although I am not sure if this is correct), I took a video of the fire on my mobile phone from outside. I have attached this video as Exhibit TE1.
10. At about 2.20am I took a photo Exhibit TE2 of the tower on fire.
11. At about 2.56am I took another video Exhibit TE3 of the tower on fire.
12. At about 2.58 I took photo Exhibit TE4 of the tower on fire.

13. During all of this I was speaking to Helen on and off. She was asking me what to do at the time that she was in her neighbours flat but it was hard for me to know what was best as I was outside. I am not sure where she was at any particular time other than when we first spoke and she was in the flat opposite hers.
14. I finally met up with Helen at about 9am on the morning of the fire, while she was looking for her daughter.

Statement of Truth

I believe that the facts stated in this witness statement are true. I confirm that I am willing that the statement forms part of the evidence before the Inquiry, and may be published on the Inquiry's website, save for redactions indicated in the text, and those applied by the Inquiry.



Signed: _____

Thomas Etienne

17.10.18

Dated: _____