

IN THE GRENFELL TOWER PUBLIC INQUIRY

WITNESS STATEMENT OF SENER MACIT

I Sener Macit, date of birth [REDACTED] will state as follows:

1. I am providing a statement to the Grenfell Tower Public Inquiry about the issues to be investigated as part of Phase 1 only. I reserve my right to give a statement about the issues to be investigated as part of Phase 2 at a later date.
2. I have been shown two witness statements, which I gave to the Metropolitan Police Service after the fire, by my solicitor. I have read these two statements to refresh my memory. I have also been shown by my solicitor a photograph, which was previously shown to me by officers from the Metropolitan Police Service. This is a photograph taken from the night of me walking at the bottom of the stairwell. I understand that this is a still taken from CCTV from within the Tower.
3. I have made a third witness statement to the Metropolitan Police Service. I understand that this statement has not been disclosed to my solicitor.
4. The Inquiry have disclosed the calls to the emergency services which I made on the night of the fire. My solicitor has transcribed these calls and I have read the transcripts.
5. The police statements I gave and the calls to the emergency services are the only pieces of evidence I have seen to assist me in providing this statement.

Family background

6. I am 57 years old [REDACTED]. I came to England in 1979 with my wife Hanife and we moved to London. In 1992 we moved into Grenfell Tower. We moved into Flat 133 which is on the sixteenth floor. When we first moved in the flat, it was the thirteenth floor but flats were added on the fourth floor and they renamed our floor the sixteenth floor.
7. Hanife and I have three children together; Tugba Nas (date of birth [REDACTED]), Merve Macit ([REDACTED]) and Emre Macit (date of birth [REDACTED]). Emre was born soon after we moved into Grenfell Tower.
8. I believe Merve moved out of Grenfell Tower in 2012 and moved into a flat [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] Tugba moved out of Grenfell Tower in around January 2017. Emre moved out a few months before 14 June 2017. Our children would regularly visit our flat and it remained their family home.
9. When we first moved into Grenfell Tower in 1992 there was a lot of crime in the building and I was worried about bringing my children up in this environment. However, the people who were causing trouble moved out and good families moved in. Grenfell Tower became a very friendly place to live. We knew many people in the building and our children grew up together and went to school together.
10. My wife Hanife would try and get to know everyone in the Tower. She knew who everyone was and she tried to speak to everyone that she could.
11. Hanife's sisters and brothers live in the [REDACTED] area. Hanife's sister Nezehat lives in [REDACTED] opposite Grenfell Tower. You could see the windows to her flat from our living room window. Hanife's sister Aysel lives [REDACTED] very close to Grenfell Tower. You can also see Grenfell

Tower from her living room windows. My mother-in-law lives [REDACTED] with my brother-in-law Bayram.

12. I have worked in various jobs in London. I have been a driver for over 20 years. Before the incident, I was working as a driver [REDACTED]

13. As a result of the fire, Hanife and I were forced to live in hotel accommodation outside of the borough and away from our family for several months. We are now living in temporary accommodation in North Kensington.

The layout of Flat 133

14. We rented the flat from "RBKC" but we paid our rent to the "TMO". We paid rent on a monthly basis. The service charge was included in the rent.

15. Flat 133 is a two-bedroom flat. If you looked out of the window of the kitchen and the living room window on the same side as the kitchen, you could see Latimer Road underground station and Dixon House. I believe that this is West facing. If you looked out of the windows of the bedrooms and the living room windows on the same side as the bedroom windows, then you looked out onto the same side as where the front entrance to Grenfell Tower was. I believe that this is South facing. My solicitor has provided me with a plan of the exterior of the building, which shows the number of our flat. I exhibit this as **SM/1**.

16. My solicitor has provided me with a floor plan of my flat and I have labelled this floor plan and provided a key for the rooms I have labelled. I exhibit this as **SM/2**.

17. When you walked through the front door of the flat you would have what I would call the storage area. This was on the left-hand side. We used it for storage of things in our flat, such as rugs and collectable items and cutlery. We kept all sorts of things that we had collected over the years. To the right was the bathroom, then the toilet, and then the kitchen. Next to the kitchen was an area where the boiler used to be. Opposite the front

door of the flat was the main bedroom, which I have labelled "bedroom 1". Next to that on the right was the second bedroom, which I have labelled "bedroom 2". Next to that was the living room. There was a door in the living room which opened into the kitchen. This was a door which would slide open.

18. We had windows in bedroom 1, bedroom 2, the living room on both sides of the room, and in the kitchen.
19. There were doors to both bedrooms, the kitchen, the toilet, and the bathroom. I don't believe that they would automatically shut. We would often keep the door from the living room to the kitchen open.
20. We had an extractor fan fitted into the kitchen. There was one in the bathroom as well.
21. I have been asked about whether I could hear noise from my neighbours through the walls. I couldn't hear noise through the wall from our next door neighbour. However, that was probably because our neighbour Sheila Smith was the calmest woman I have known and never made any noise. She sadly passed away in the fire. However, the partitions within Flat 133 were thin and you could hear noise in between the bedrooms and the living room. I have been asked about whether I could smell food from other flats. I don't recall being able to.

Fire safety in the building

22. My solicitor has provided me with a floor plan for the sixteenth floor of the Tower. I have labelled the plan and provided a key for the areas I have labelled. I exhibit this as **SM/3**.
23. There were two lifts in the building which were next to each other which took you to the ground floor. There was a stairwell in the Tower, which were opposite the lifts. The stairwell was the only way out of the building in the event of a fire because I know you are not to use lifts if there is a fire because it is dangerous. This is not something the "TMO" told me but something I have always known.

24. There were doors which opened into the stairwell. These doors were made from wood and were painted blue. They would automatically shut.
25. I believe that there were two extractor fans in the corridor of the communal area. I have labelled these on the floor plan.
26. There was a fire hose in the corridor, which I have labelled on the plan. This was near our front door. We would have to keep this area clear in case of a fire. If we ever had anything outside our front door the caretakers would knock on our door and tell us to remove them because if there was a fire in the building the fire brigade would need to use the fire hoses.
27. We had fire alarms in Flat 133. I believe we had three alarms. One was in the living room, one was in the corridor between the bedrooms and the bathroom, and the other was in the kitchen. I have labelled these on the floor plan. The fire alarms in my flat were all working. I knew this because they would go off in the flat if there was too much steam in the kitchen. I don't know who installed them in my flat. It is possible that it was the "TMO".
28. I remember there being several fires in the Tower over the years before the Refurbishment happened. The fires never spread through the building and they were all contained within the flat in which the fire started in.
29. I recall that there used to be fire alarms in the communal areas of Grenfell Tower that you could hear when there was a fire. I remember times in the past where the fire alarms went off in the building. When this happened we would come out of the flat to see if there was a serious fire and whether we needed to leave the building or not. We would wait for the firefighters to tell us what to do. I remember an occasion when the alarms went off in the communal area and the fire brigade arrived. I stood outside the flat in the corridor and I

saw a firefighter who told me that we didn't need to evacuate the building. I remember I went back into Flat 133. I don't remember what year this happened.

30. On the night of the fire the communal fire alarms did not sound off. I have heard that the reason is because the company who installed the fire alarms disconnected the sound because the "TMO" asked them to and instead they sent an emergency alarm to the fire brigade. It was part of the "stay put" policy. Had the fire alarms gone off, we would have known that there was a fire in the Tower sooner and it may have saved some people's lives.
31. The lights in the corridor are on all the time because there are no windows. They were working on the night of the fire.
32. I can't remember seeing emergency lighting above the emergency doors on the night of the fire but that may have been because of the thickness of the smoke and I didn't see it.
33. The fire policy in Grenfell Tower is displayed in writing around the building. The signs say that when there is a fire, tenants should stay in the flat. There has never been a fire drill at Grenfell Tower in the years I have lived there. I have never been told or shown what to do if there is a fire. I've never been shown or told if there is an escape plan. All I knew was that I was supposed to stay in my flat.
34. I don't know about the fire brigade carrying out home safety checks in Grenfell Tower. My wife recalls seeing the fire brigade checking the fire alarms near the entrance of Grenfell Tower in June 2017, a few days before the fire. She recalls that I was in Flat 133 when this happened. They did not come and check our flat on this day.
35. I have been asked about what I would have said to "RBKC or the "TMO" if they had offered to put sprinklers in the building or in the flat. I would not have objected to this as it may have made the building safer in the event of a fire.

36. I can't remember when the Aldridge Academy was built but I remember that we opposed it. This is because there used to be football pitches where we and other residents would take our children to. There used to be car park spaces there too which family who visited us could use. There was a consultation on the building of the academy and many residents, including us, opposed it but they built the academy anyway. After it was built, it meant that the fire engines could only get to the Tower through Grenfell Road. I believe the school restricted fire engines from accessing the Tower.

The Refurbishments

37. I am including information about the Refurbishments as this information may be relevant to the fact finding of Phase 1 of the Inquiry. I have not seen any documents to assist me in providing information about the work which was done, and I am therefore only able to guess at dates. I reserve my position to provide a second statement in Phase 2.

38. Grenfell Tower was refurbished and I believe the refurbishment was completed in 2016. I will refer to this as the Refurbishment.

39. I believe that as part of the Refurbishment, my front door was replaced. This is the front door to Flat 133. I believe that they replaced the door with a fire door. The new front door would automatically close. We had a letterbox on the door and this would automatically shut. A few months after the door had been fitted it became difficult to close the door properly. One day it became jammed open, which meant I could not close the front door.

40. I called the "TMO" emergency contact number. I spoke to someone at the "TMO" and I reported the problem. They treated it as an emergency. They sent round a handyman. He was there within a few hours. He looked at the door and he took out a mechanism from within the door. He told me that this was the automatic closing mechanism. He said that this was what was causing my door to jam. He said he needed to remove it.

41. I asked him if he was going to replace the mechanism. The handyman told me that he would not be replacing it because it wasn't possible to replace just the mechanism. He

said that the whole door would need to be replaced in order for it to automatically close. He told me that there was nothing wrong with the door. What I assumed he meant by this was that it would cost money to replace the whole door, when only the closing mechanism needed to be replaced.

42. The handyman told me that there were other front doors in the Tower which also did not automatically close and the tenants didn't mind it. He told me that it was not necessary for my door to automatically close. I didn't know anything about fire safety at the time and so I just accepted his advice. I thought he was the expert. From this date onwards, my front door did not automatically shut and I would have to close it myself.
43. I don't know on what date this happened. The "TMO" should have a record of my call and the work which was done. These records have not been disclosed to me or my solicitor and so I am unable to give a date.
44. During the Refurbishment I recall that smoke extractor fans were fitted into the walls of the corridors on each floor. By this I mean the communal area outside the flats. I saw workmen testing them during the refurbishment. When they tested them you could hear this noise coming from them that sounded like the air was being sucked out through them.
45. Each flat had a boiler refitted into it during the Refurbishment. The boiler used to be by the kitchen. The boiler in our flat was cut out with a hammer because of the limescale. It took the workmen ages to do. We always complained to the "TMO" that the hot water would run out because of the limescale in the boiler. They refitted the new boiler by the front door of my flat.
46. I heard from other residents that the boilers were fitted by the front door in order to save RBKC money. Some residents believed that the boilers should have been installed inside the kitchens where the original boilers had been before the Refurbishment.

47. The pipes used to run from underneath the living room floor from the central heating. They changed this and made the pipes run through the walls and they put in new radiators in the flats.
48. All the windows in our flat were replaced. The new windows were double-glazed and would only open inwards. The bottom of the windows, which I would describe as being the window ledge, were made from a plastic sort of material. I remember that when the fire came through the window on 14 June 2017 it quickly set light to the plastic material at the bottom of the windows.
49. Cladding was fitted to the outside of the building. I was actually excited about the cladding because it was going to make the building look nicer. The "TMO" said that the cladding would make a difference because the insulation would make our homes warmer in the winter and it would make the building look nicer from outside. I felt positive that the "TMO" were doing this. I had no idea about how dangerous the cladding was.
50. There were gas pipes installed in Sheila Smith's flat. The "TMO" said that there was a problem with the gas pipes when the building was installed. The "TMO" wanted the gas pipes to run through the ceiling of our flat and we didn't want this because of the way it looked. Sheila also didn't have any gas during the time it was installed in her flat.
51. The electrics were redone in our flat about ten years ago. The workmen pulled wires out of the flat and completed the rewiring. That's all I know about it.
52. We had an incident once where all our electrical equipment in the flat which was plugged into the sockets was damaged due to a surge in the electricity. When it happened it made the flat smell of what I would describe as burnt wire smell. The "TMO" offered to pay each flat £250 for the damage. They said that they would make that payment out of goodwill but that they did not accept liability for what happened. I didn't accept the offer they made. We had a residents meeting and we talked about taking legal action but nothing happened as far as I am aware. I'm not sure why that was. The damage caused to

my property was well above the £250 the "TMO" had offered. Things of ours which were damaged beyond repair included a computer, phones, and our television. These all needed to be replaced. I don't know when this happened but I believe that it was after the electrics were redone in the flat.

53. There used to be a concierge on the ground floor of the Tower. There used to be someone working at the concierge desk almost all of the time. I can't remember whether there was someone there 24-hours a day. When refurbishments were made to the building and the entrance to Grenfell Tower was changed, they removed the concierge desk.

54. There were caretakers for Grenfell Tower and they would take care of any damage in the communal areas of the building. They would remove fire hazards inside the communal areas, such as rubbish left outside of front doors to flats. Their office was near Brandon Walk. They were not responsible for issues inside the flats. If you had a problem, like damage, then you had to contact the "TMO". My daughter Tugba was the main point of contact with the "TMO" for repairs.

14 June 2017

55. On 14 June I was at home with my family. [REDACTED] I [REDACTED] with the family at around 9.30pm. My wife's sisters had been at our house. My daughter Merve was also with us in the flat with my grandson.

56. I drove Merve and my grandson to her house in the evening and then I returned home. I was supposed to be working that night but I had a splitting headache so I stayed at home. When I returned home only Hanife was in the flat.

57. I was still awake at 01:00. I was watching television in the living room. I was wearing pyjama bottoms and a t-shirt.

58. I don't recall there being any issues with the electricity in the flat on this night.

59. Hanife was on the telephone speaking with one of her sisters. I believe she was speaking with her sister Aysel. They were speaking in Turkish. Hanife told me that Aysel could see fire engines at the bottom of Grenfell Tower. I heard Hanife tell Aysel on the phone that we didn't know what was going on. Hanife told me that Aysel was asking her what was going on.
60. I walked over to the living room window to look down to see if I could see the fire engines. I opened the window and looked down. Hanife also did the same. I could see a number of fire engines on the street underneath the walkway by the entrance to the Grenfell Tower garages, near where Brandon walk was. The engines were queued up behind each other. This was at around 01:10.
61. I remember not feeling concerned about this. There had been fires before in Grenfell Tower and they were put out by the fire brigade without any problems. These fires happened before the Tower was refurbished. I told Hanife not to panic.
62. I continued to watch television and Hanife continued speaking with her sister on the telephone.
63. A few minutes later, I left Flat 133 and walked into the corridor area to see if I could hear anything happening. There was no sign of a fire. There was no smoke and I could not hear any fire alarms sounding. If there was a fire in the building I would have expected to hear the alarms, like before. I couldn't smell smoke or a fire. I couldn't hear any commotion. I went back inside my flat.
64. At around 01:35 my brother-in-law Abdullah sent me a message on WhatsApp. He sent me a photograph which looked like a large fire on 10 floors of Grenfell Tower. This was not on our side of the Tower. I didn't know which side of the Tower this photo was taken from. I exhibit this photograph as SM/4.

65. Abdullah called me on my phone and I answered the call. Abdullah told me that he could see there was a large fire in Grenfell Tower and he told me that we needed to leave the building.
66. I looked out of the living room window again. I couldn't see any sign of a fire.
67. I opened the front door and walked out onto the landing. Hanife came with me. I saw some of my neighbours running down the corridor shouting at us that there was a fire and telling us to leave. I don't know the names of these neighbours but I know that they lived on the sixteenth floor. I saw at least six or seven people leave the sixteenth floor and go down the stairwell. They opened the fire doors, which would then automatically close.
68. I could now see evidence of a fire. There was smoke coming into the landing area. The smoke was black and I could only see about three metres in front of me. It smelt like burning plastic. It looked to me like the smoke was coming from the stairwell. The smoke was coming into the corridor when the door was being opened by my neighbours who were escaping down the stairwell. It is possible that the smoke was also coming from underneath the fire door when the door was closed.
69. I remember that I could not hear the extractor fans working. You couldn't hear the engine noise working as I had heard them before when they were being tested, so I believed at the time that they were not working. There was no sucking noise that you would expect to hear. It certainly didn't look like they were working from the smoke that was in the corridor.
70. I couldn't see any front doors to people's flats open because of the visibility at this time.
71. I was now worried about our safety. Hanfie and I walked back into our flat. We changed out of our pyjamas and into clothes. I got dressed into a blue suit and I found our passport bag and put them both in my pocket. This took me around five minutes to do.

72. Hanife picked up her small handbag. We were ready to leave the Grenfell Tower. I opened the front door. By now the whole landing area was completely filled with smoke. I would describe the smoke as being thick, hot and black. The smoke was unbelievable. I couldn't see a thing. I couldn't see anyone in the corridor because I couldn't see in front of me. I couldn't believe that in the five minutes we had been, the smoke had changed so much.
73. When the smoke hit my face I panicked because the smoke was very hot and it automatically made my throat hurt. My eyes were hurting as well. It was like a sting. It hit my face and it was hot. I thought there was no oxygen in this corridor. I couldn't see anything. It made me panic. It was pitch black.
74. I couldn't see the door to the stairwell, which I know was only a few feet away from our front door. When you come out of the front door it is to the right-hand side. My flat is very close to the stairwell, although I believe Sheila's front door is the closest.
75. I knew that in the event of a fire the lifts should not be used. I didn't check to see if the lifts were working. I believed at the time that the stairwell was the only way to escape.
76. We both panicked and I shut the front door of the flat. I used my mobile to call 999 and I asked for the fire brigade.
77. My solicitor has shown me the times in which I made calls to the emergency services. These times have been disclosed to my solicitor by the Inquiry. These calls are recorded as having been made at 02:10:33, 02:41:31, 02:49:05, 03:02:27, 03:12:56 and 03:33:46.
78. I believe the call which is recorded as having been made at 02:10 was put through to Glasgow because the London Fire Brigade lines were too busy to take my call. From my recollection, this was in fact the last call which I made to the emergency services. I accept that I may be wrong about this and the times of the emergency calls may be correct. It is

possible that I have confused the order I made the calls in because of how incredibly stressful and traumatic this night was. I can only say what I remember.

79. I made five other calls to the emergency services and I believe that these were all put through to the London Fire Brigade.
80. My recollection of what happened on the night is that I called the emergency services and I was held in a queue for around five minutes. I then spoke with a female operator. I told the operator which flat my wife and I were in and that we needed help and that there was too much smoke in the corridor. I told her that we could not get out. I asked for the fire brigade to get us oxygen masks so we could breathe. The operator told me that we should stay in the flat. She told me that the fire brigade were dealing with the fire. She told me to get some towels and wet them and put them underneath the front door to stop any smoke getting underneath the front door and into the flat.
81. There was already thick black smoke coming into the flat at this time. I could hear our internal fire alarms going off.
82. I got some towels from my bathroom and some cloths, and put them underneath tap water. I then took the towels and cloth over to the front door and put them underneath the door where there is a gap. I then walked into the living room where Hanife was. We closed the door to the living room to try and stop smoke coming into the living room. Hanife was sat on one of the sofas and she was panicking. We were both receiving calls on our phones from our family. They were telling us to leave the building but we told them we couldn't because of the smoke outside the flat.
83. At 01:49 my brother-in-law Abdullah sent me another message on Whatsapp which were two pictures of Grenfell Tower on fire. I exhibit these messages at **SM/5**. It looked as though there were around 10 to 15 floors which were on fire. I don't know which side of the building this photo was taken from.

84. Abdullah called me on my phone. He told me to get out of the building. I told him that we couldn't escape because of the smoke.
85. Soon after the call from Abdullah ended, Hanife and I tried to leave the building again. We left the flat and I closed the front door behind me, which locked the door. There was so much smoke in the corridor that I couldn't see what was in front of me. The smoke again was hot and black and it hurt my eyes and my throat. I knew where the doors to the stairwell were but I couldn't see them. You couldn't see a light above the doors showing where they were.
86. We walked slowly across the corridor to where the fire doors to the stairwell were. I got to the door and I pushed it open. I realised that I was out of breath already. I thought to myself that there was a long way down to the bottom and I immediately made the decision that my breath wouldn't last me to the ground floor. The smoke in the stairwell felt hot and thick and you couldn't see anything. I felt scared. It felt like there was no oxygen and I couldn't breathe.
87. I thought it would be too dangerous to leave and we would choke to death if we tried. I felt trapped inside the building. I told Hanife that we needed to run back to the flat.
88. We slowly walked back again to the front door of our flat. I got my key out to unlock the door. Because of the thickness of the smoke I couldn't even see where the keyhole was. I was trying to find it with my fingers. I felt my hands shaking as I did this. I was panicking and it was hard for me to breathe. I was thinking I won't manage to open the door and we will run out of breath here in the corridor.
89. I eventually managed to find the keyhole and unlock it with the keys. We quickly went back into the flat and closed the front door behind us. We went into the living room and closed the door of the living room to try and get away from the smoke. There was thick, black smoke pouring into the flat and closing the door of the living room didn't stop it from coming in.

90. We both received phone calls from our family members begging us to get out. They were outside watching the Tower burning. I told a family member that it was impossible for us to leave because the smoke on the stairwell was so thick. I said that if we tried to escape then we would surely both choke to death. I believed that if we tried to leave then we would both die.
91. I believe my daughter Merve spoke to Hanife on the phone and told her that she had called the emergency services and they knew that we were in the flat and they were trying to get to us. Hanife was really panicking. We were both scared.
92. I called the emergency services again on the 999 number and asked for the fire brigade. I spoke with an operator and I told her that we were in Flat 133 and we couldn't leave the flat. I told the operator that we had tried to leave the flat twice but we couldn't because of the smoke. The operator assured me that help was on the way.
93. The thick black smoke in the living room was affecting my ability to breathe. I could also see smoke rising outside of our window. The windows were shut for this reason. It meant that we couldn't get any air from outside and the smoke couldn't escape the room. I believed if we opened the windows more smoke would come in from outside. I could then see flames outside the window from below our flat. The flames were a mixture of black and red. Our flat wasn't on fire at this point but I remember seeing flames from other flats.
94. I told the operator that there was now smoke in our flat and we were both struggling to breathe. The operator advised me again to put a wet towel underneath the door and to put wet towels on our faces and lie on the floor because there would be more oxygen there. The operator advised me to open the windows. I told her that I couldn't do this because I could see smoke and flames outside of the building. I was coughing a lot from the smoke.

95. After I ended the call I looked outside of the window. I could see flames above our flat, below our flat and all around the flat. The flames looked as though they were now on all sides of the building from what I could see. I could see debris falling from above. It seemed as though flats to the right and to the left and below us and above us were on fire. Our flat at this point though was not on fire and that includes the panels on the outside of our flat from what I could see.

96. I really believed that I was going to die in the building and I didn't think there was a chance we would get out of the building alive. Hanife was panicking a lot and I was trying to calm her down. We both frightened.

97. I laid on the floor with my wife. We both received more calls from family members begging us to leave and get out. We both told them it wasn't possible.

98. I believe 40 minutes after the phone call with the operator passed and we were still lying on the floor of the flat waiting to be rescued by the fire brigade.

99. I thought that we were going to die in the flat. It was really difficult to breathe. We were still receiving calls from family members. It was difficult to speak on the phone because of the smoke and breathing. I told family members, such as my daughter Merve, who was outside, that I loved them and I said my last goodbye to them. They were crying on the phone.

100. I made a final call to the emergency services on the 999 number. I asked the operator where the help was. I told her we couldn't breathe and that we needed breathing masks. I again told her we were in Flat 133 on the sixteenth floor.

101. The operator said to me "sir, no help can get to you. Please try and get out of the building". The operator sounded as if she was about to cry when she said this to me. I told the operator that I was 56 years old and that my wife was 57 years old and we are not physically fit people. The operator told me that leaving the building was our only chance.

I told the operator about the smoke in the corridor and I said that if we left we would drown in the smoke.

102. I told Hanife what the operator had told me. I told her that we needed to try and leave. I saw the glass of the windows in our living room crack and shatter like an explosion. Flames came into the flat through the shattered windows. The flames immediately caught fire to the curtains in our flat. I then saw that the walls of our flat caught light from the fire and also the window ledge. This all happened very quickly. I would describe the flames as being orange, red and black in colour.

103. I took a bucket from my flat and ran into the bathroom. Hanife came with me. I filled the bucket up with water and poured it over Hanife's head. I did this twice more. I then did the same for myself three times.

104. We spoke to family members on the phone. We told them that we were going to try and escape. We told them that we loved them and said goodbye to them.

105. I said to Hanife that we had to leave, no matter what and that we weren't coming back to the flat. I knew that this was our only chance to survive. Hanife had a handbag with her and she was holding a wet towel. I was also holding a wet towel to my face. I quickly walked into bedroom 2 to try and take other things with me. I can't remember what it was I was looking for. When I walked into the bedroom I saw that the walls, my bed and the wardrobes were on fire. I just shut the door very quickly. I didn't want Hanife to see this. We left the flat and I closed the door to my flat behind me.

106. The corridor was again full of thick black smoke. I couldn't see anything in front of me. It was pitch black. I put the towel up in front of my mouth to help me breathe better. I held onto Hanife and we walked slowly towards where I believed the doors to the stairwell were. I pushed open the door to the stairwell.

107. I managed to find the railings to the stairwell and I held onto it to help me walk down the stairs. I held the handrail with my right hand and the wet towel with my left hand.

108. When I was on the stairwell I started shouting "help, help". There was no reply for my calls for help. I was doing this because I thought that we would both collapse on the stairs and I was hoping that firemen would find us and rescue us from the stairwell. I didn't believe I had enough breath in me to make it down the stairwell to the ground floor. I thought that I was going to die.

109. The smoke in the stairwell was black, thick, and hot and I would describe as being toxic. It is difficult to describe what the smoke tasted like, other than to say it tasted poisonous. The taste was indescribable.

110. It was so hot in the stairwell. It felt like my skin was burning. The handrail felt hot to touch. The conditions in the stairwell felt unbearable. It was almost impossible to breathe. You could not see even one inch in front of you. It was pitch black.

111. I knew Hanife was behind me, although I couldn't see her, because I was shouting at her from the top of my voice and she was saying very faintly "I am behind you".

112. I had to find each step with my foot and this meant we were both walking slowly down the stairwell. I wasn't aware of anyone else walking down the stairwell at the time with us.

113. When we reached the fourteenth floor, I began stepping on bodies. I couldn't see them because of the smoke so I cannot say who they were or describe what they looked like but I knew it was people I was stepping on. I knew that some of the people may still have been alive but only just because I could hear them making groaning noises. There was nothing I could do to try and help them and I thought if Hanife and I stopped then we would choke on the smoke.

114. At one point I remember getting my feet stuck in between bodies. I believe that this was between the fourteenth floor and the twelfth floor. Again I could not see who these people were or describe them because of the denseness of the smoke. At one point, I believe I stepped on a stack of bodies. It felt like the bodies were lying on top of each other in a stack.

115. I reached the tenth floor. Hanife was still behind me. I walked into two firemen. The door to the tenth floor was open and the firemen were standing in the door way. I remember trying to speak to them both. I was shouting at them for help. I could see their faces but not very well. One of them looked at me in a daze. He looked like he was swaying as if he was about to lose consciousness, like he was going to faint. They didn't even acknowledge me.

116. I continued walking down the stairwell holding onto the handrail. We reached the eighth floor. My heart was racing and I was sweating. At this point I recall that the smoke appeared to be less dense. The visibility was better at this point. For example, I could see my feet. I believe I could see half a metre in front of me. It was still difficult to breathe and I was coughing. My heart was racing so fast that I thought I was going to have a heart attack.

117. I saw a body on the ground on this floor. I would describe this person as a Hispanic girl aged between 15 years old and 18 years old. She was wearing a t-shirt and leggings. She looked as though she was barely alive. I knew that my wife would stop and try and help her but I believed that if she did then she would not make it out alive and we could not carry her out. I told my wife not to stop and help. We needed to carry on if we were going to get out alive. Hanife and I continued walking down the stairwell.

118. The smoke was now thinning out and the visibility in the stairwell was a lot better. I did not see any more bodies on the stairwell passed the tenth floor.

119. Water was now pouring onto me. I believe that this was the water being sprayed onto the building from the fire engines. The water felt hot on my skin. This happened on the second or third floor.
120. While I was on the stairwell near the ground floor, a firefighter saw me and shouted out "survivors". Two firefighters then grabbed me by the arms. Another two firefighters grabbed my wife by the arms. They helped us to walk. I walked out of the doors to the stairwell and towards the entrance of the Grenfell Tower with their help.
121. The firefighters told us that we had to wait in the foyer area because debris was falling off the building. One of the firemen told me to hold onto his shoulder with my hand while he held a riot shield over the top of our heads. He was in contact with another firefighter who was outside and across from the Tower and was watching for debris from the top of the Tower. I was told by the firefighter that as soon as the firefighter outside gave the signal to leave we would run outside with the riot shield above us.
122. We were given the signal and we left the entrance to Grenfell Tower with the firemen who were holding the riot shields above our head. As we walked quickly from the Tower towards the street, I could hear things landing on the shields above us. I believed that this was debris falling from the Tower.
123. I don't know how long it took us from leaving the flat to being outside of the Tower. The Metropolitan Police Service have shown me a photograph taken of me walking down the stairwell to the ground floor. I understand that this is a still image taken from CCTV. I understand that the CCTV shows me at the bottom of the stairwell and it has recorded me leaving at 03:47. If that time is correct then it means that I probably got out of the Tower at around 04:00 although I cannot be certain about the time.
124. I was escorted to an area on the street by Latimer Road underground station. This was a casualty area. There were paramedics treating people. I was sat down in this area and I

was given an oxygen mask. Hanife was with me and she was also given a mask. I felt like I was going to faint. My heart was racing.

125. I had the oxygen mask on but I still couldn't breathe. I didn't understand why. I was given a glass of water by paramedics. I gargled the water and then spat the water out on the floor. The water was black. This had come from my throat. I realised that the reason I couldn't breathe was because of the smoke I had breathed in and it was down my throat and in my mouth. I gargled the water again and spat it out to get more of this black stuff out of my throat and my nose. I was then able to breathe after this. I told Hanife to do the same and she did.

126. I saw the young girl I had seen on the stairwell being carried in a blanket by a fireman and she was taken to the pavement in front of me, where paramedics worked on her.

127. I phoned Hanife's sister's son Can, and told him that we were alive and outside of the Tower. I said that we were waiting to be taken to hospital by an ambulance. Can was the last person I had spoken to on my phone which is why I called him first. I told him to spread the word to our family so that they knew we were alive.

128. I then got into an ambulance with Hanife and a woman I know called Rebecca Power, who lived in Grenfell Tower. She lived with her father Steven Power. I believe she told me in the ambulance that her father had not made it out the Tower with her. She said that he didn't want to leave his dogs behind in the building and so he stayed with them.

129. We were taken to the Royal Free Hospital in London. I do not wish to discuss in detail the medical treatment I received, other than to state that I was treated for physical and psychological injuries as a result of the fire.

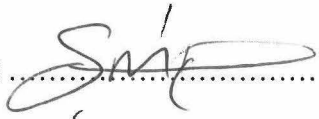
130. Our family came to find us in the Royal Free hospital. I saw my children Tugba, Merve, Emre, my brother and my wife's brother. The hospital became full of people, who were family, friends and people from the community.

131.I do not at this stage wish to describe the impact this has had on our lives, other than to say that I lost my home where my children grew up and I have lost friends and neighbours who died in the fire. I understand that two of my neighbours on the sixteenth floor died. I know that my wife and I were lucky to survive. At the time, I truly believed that we were going to die in the Tower and I said my goodbyes to my family. I won't ever forget what we went through that night. It is a miracle that Hanife and I are alive today. We have however lost all of our possessions in the fire, many of which cannot ever be replaced. My children have lost friends who died in the fire who they grew up with and went to school with. A whole community has been destroyed.

132.I am willing for this statement to form part of the evidence before the Inquiry and for it to be published on the Inquiry's website.

133.I am willing to give oral evidence.

I believe that the facts stated in this witness statement are true.

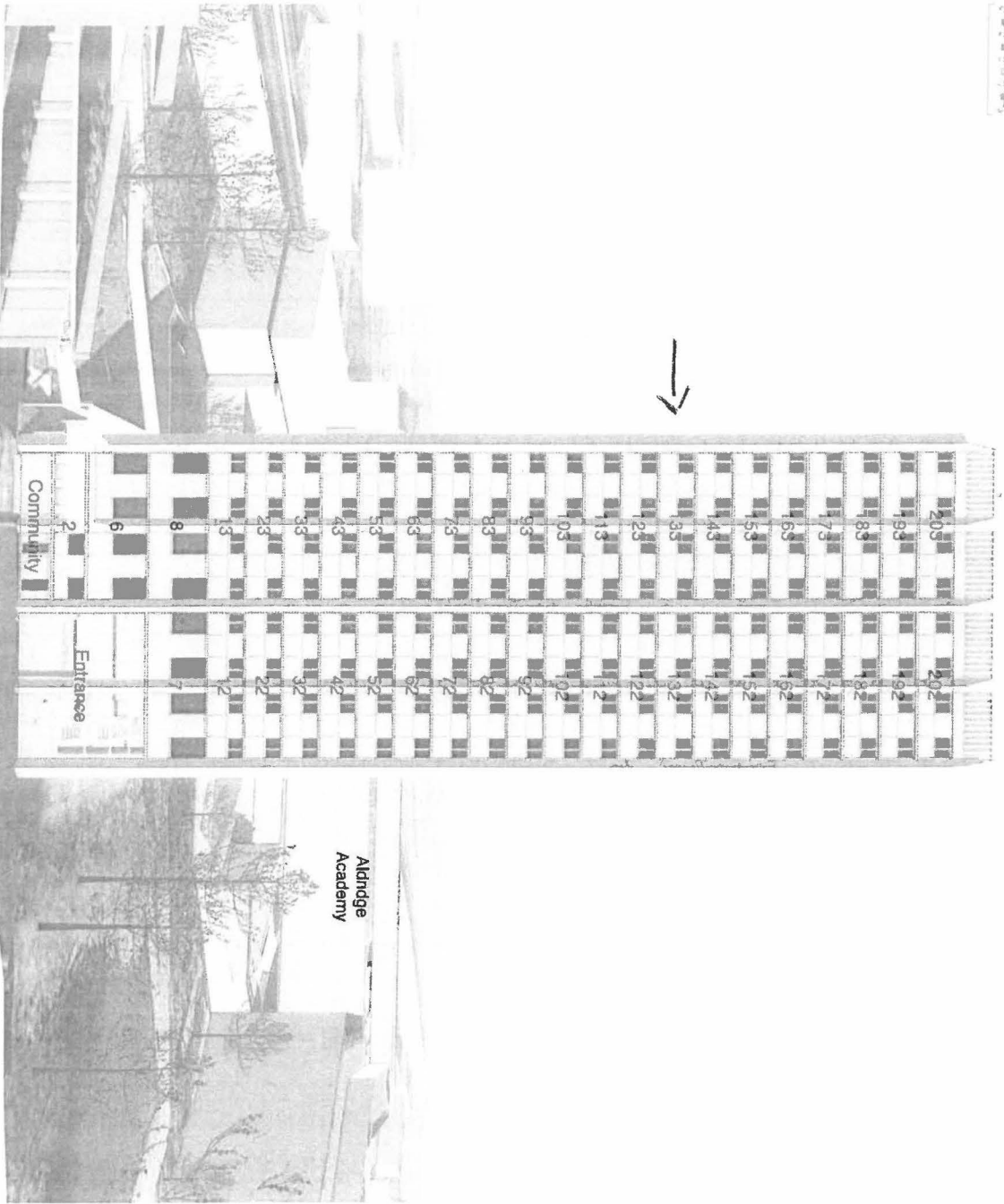
Signed

Dated12-04-2018

Sener Macit

IN THE GRENFELL TOWER PUBLIC INQUIRY

EXHIBIT SM/1



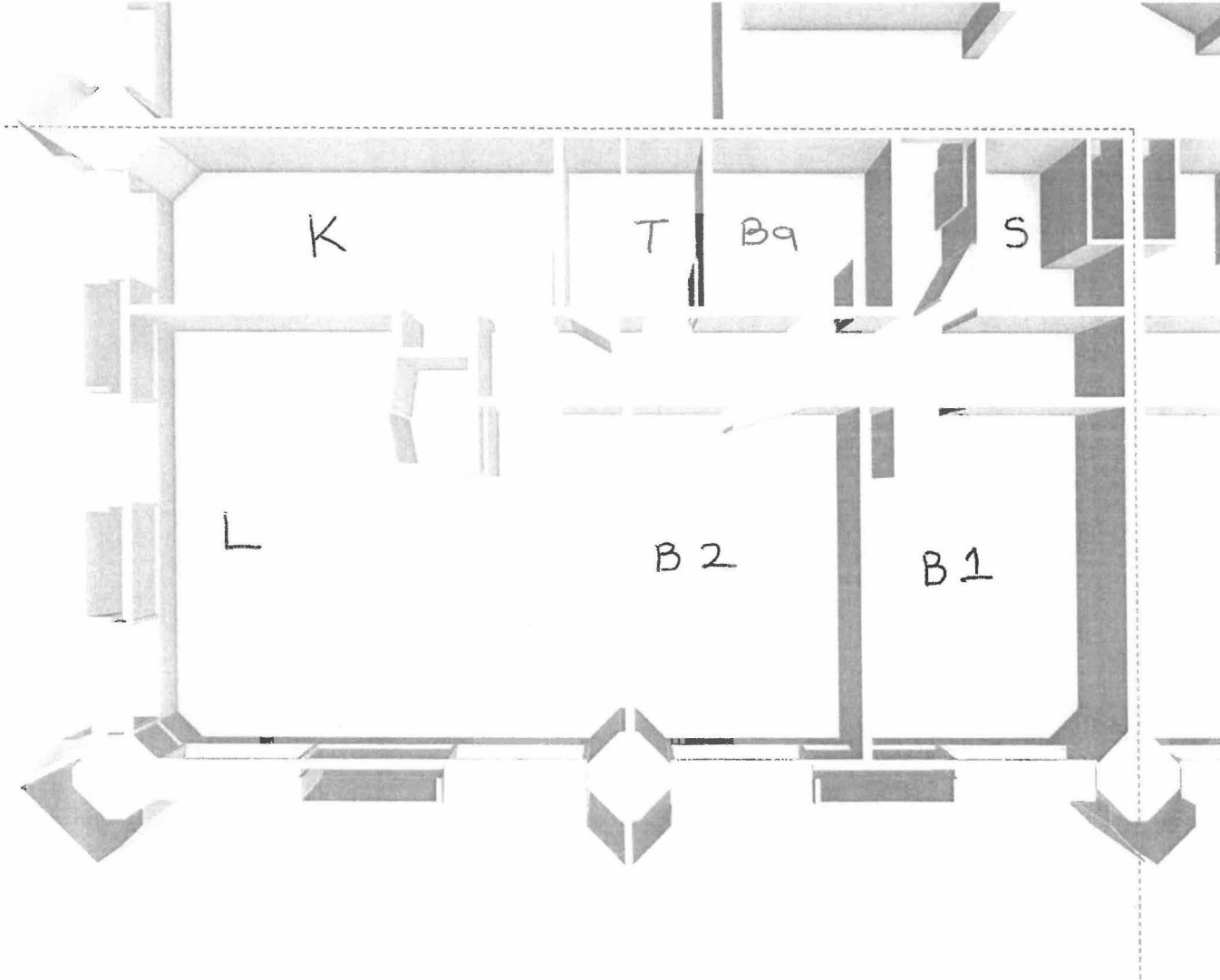
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Solicitor: Edgimer

n.	Description	Time
—7	Fla 133	
	shows windows of the bedrooms and the living room	

IN THE GRENFELL TOWER PUBLIC INQUIRY

EXHIBIT SM/2



Witness: 

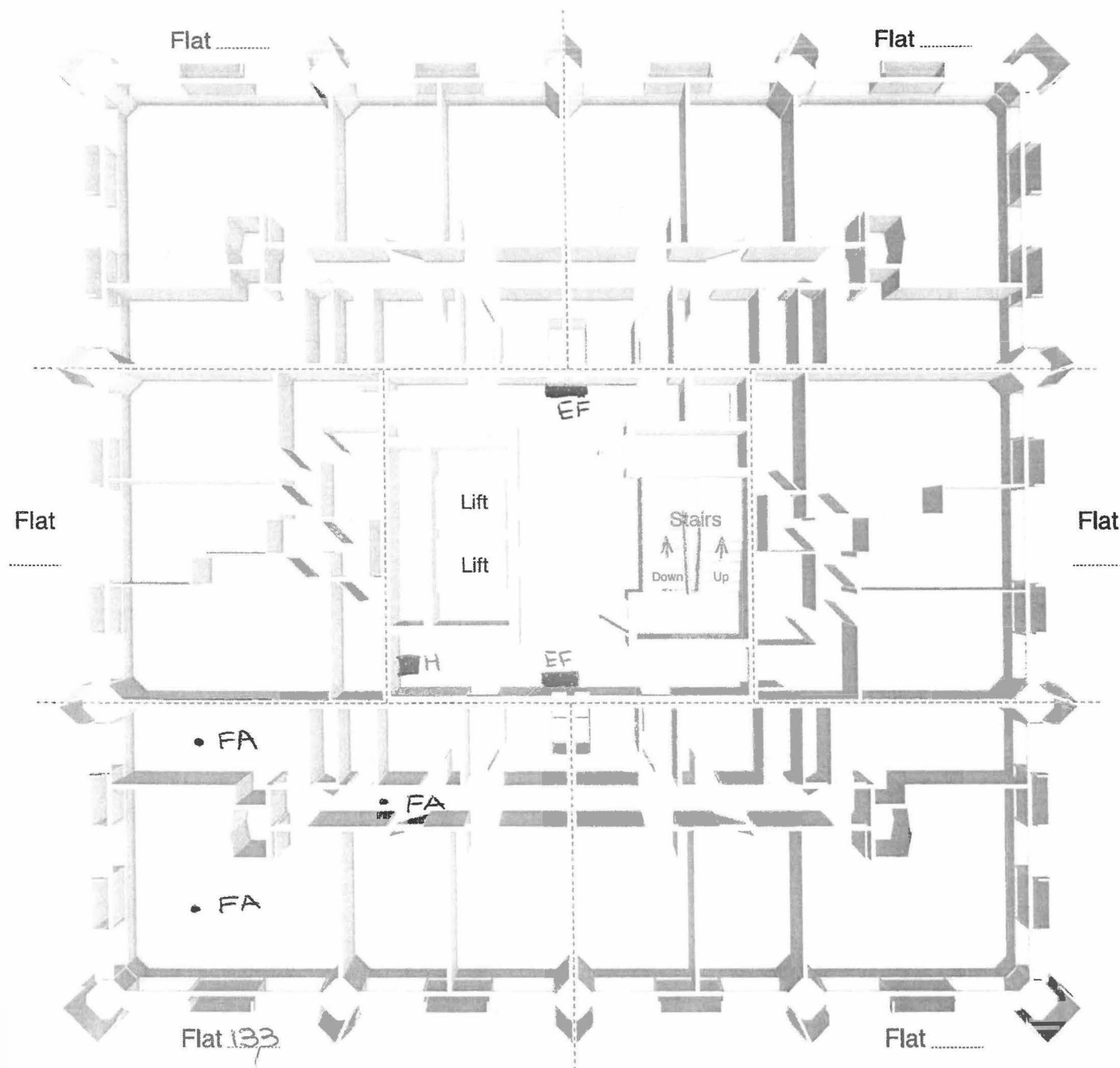
Solicitor: EJG:lsjv

[illegible]

IN THE GRENFELL TOWER PUBLIC INQUIRY

EXHIBIT SM/3

Grenfell Tower Typical Residential Floor Plan



Witness: 

Floor Number: 16

Solicitor: EJC/rvan

[illegible]

IN THE GRENFELL TOWER PUBLIC INQUIRY

EXHIBIT SM/4



IN THE GRENFELL TOWER PUBLIC INQUIRY

EXHIBIT SM/5



