

Witness Statement of: Sener Macit

No. of statement: 3

Exhibits: 1

Date of statement: 25.02.20

GRENFELL TOWER INQUIRY

WITNESS STATEMENT OF SENER MACIT

This statement is a factual statement prepared for the Grenfell Tower Inquiry dealing with Modules 3 and 4 in Phase 2 only. It does not, and is not intended to set out my experiences on the night of the fire, or the impact that these events and the aftermath have had on me (and my family).

Signed 

I, **SENER MACIT**, will say as follows:

1. I was a resident of Grenfell Tower and I am a survivor of the fire that started on 14th June 2017. I am making this statement for the purpose of Phase 2 of the Grenfell Tower Public Inquiry only.
2. I gave four witness statements to the police dated 27th June 2017, 28th June 2017, 8th November 2017 and the 27th February 2018. I gave two witness statements to the Inquiry in Phase 1, dated 12th April 2018 (reference: IWS00000069) and a supplementary statement on 17th October 2018 (reference: IWS00001156). I gave oral evidence to the Inquiry on 1st November 2018.
3. This statement address the issues within Module 3 (fire safety within the Tower and communication with residents) and Module 4 (aftermath) from the Inquiry's stated

Phase 2 schedule. I deal with issues relating to Module 3 in paragraphs 6 to 36 and Module 4 in paragraphs 37 to 81.

Living in Grenfell Tower

4. I was born in Turkey and lived there until I moved to England with my wife Hanife in 1979. We were living with our two young daughters at Hanife's parent's house in London before we made an application to the council (RBKC) to be housed in social housing. RBKC placed us in a 'bed and breakfast' before they offered us Flat 133 in Grenfell Tower, on the 13th floor (which became the 16th floor after the Refurbishment). We accepted the offer and moved in in August 1992. In that year my son was born.
5. I have described what it was like for me and my family living in Grenfell Tower in paragraphs 6 to 11 of my Phase 1 statement. I have described the layout of my flat in paragraphs 14 to 21. I also exhibited a floor plan of the 16th floor and our flat as SM/2 and SM/3 respectively (reference: ISW00000069).

Communications with RBKC and the TMO

6. RBKC were the landlord who owned the building and my flat, and the TMO managed the Tower for them. I paid the rent to the TMO and if things needed repairing in my flat or if there were problems in the Tower then we were expected to contact the TMO.
7. When we asked the TMO to make some repairs in our flat when things broke and needed fixing, we would sometimes be told that it was not the TMO's responsibility or it was not their policy to carry out certain work. This happened when we needed our flooring replacing, for example. When repairs needed to be made in the flat, we would have to make a number of calls to them and we had to do a lot of chasing for them to send a worker round to us. Sometimes it was just easier and quicker for us to pay for the repairs ourselves, which sometimes I did. Our flat needed modernising. We had issues with our kitchen, as the cupboards were falling apart. We had a battle with the TMO for this to be replaced and it was not changed for a very long time.

8. My solicitor has shown me the repairs data for my flat which I understand was held by the TMO but disclosed by RBKC. I have exhibited the repairs data sheet to this statement at SM/06.
9. Hanife had problems with her knee and had to use the lift to get to and from the flat. She had these knee problems when we were living in Grenfell Tower, which has become worse since the fire. We never mentioned this to the TMO, but they never met us to ask. I do not remember having meetings with the TMO or RBKC when I was living in the Grenfell Tower to check if it was suitable for us to carry on living on the 16th floor.
10. The lifts broke down quite often. I always wondered why this happened so frequently. If one lift was out of order, it meant that there were often queues in the lobby area to use the working lift. Sometimes both of the lifts would be out of order and so everyone had to use the stairwell to get in and out of the Tower. If both lifts were out of order, Hanife could take the stairs but it would take her a long time. She would get out of breath and have to take a lot of breaks.
11. I knew there were people on higher floors with disabilities or mobility problems, as I would see them using wheelchairs and walking sticks. I thought at the time how these people would be stuck in their flats and unable to go anywhere when both the lifts were not working, which concerned.
12. The lift company was called Otis and it always seemed to take a long time for them to fix the lifts. I would wonder why the faults never seemed to be fixed for good and the lifts would then break down again.

Flat entrance door

13. I described in my Phase 1 statement at paragraphs 39 to 43 how my front door was replaced with a new door that would automatically close, but after a few months, the door broke which meant that I could not close the front door at all. I have described how I called the TMO using the emergency phone number to report this. The TMO sent

round a handyman. He told me it was the self-closing mechanism in the door which had broken, causing the door to jam. He removed this mechanism from the door. This allowed the door to close again. He told me that he would not be replacing the mechanism and to get the door to automatically close again then they would need to buy a whole door. I assumed at the time that what he meant by this was it would cost money to replace the whole door which the TMO would not want to do. I have included in this statement how the handyman told me that there were other front doors in Grenfell Tower which did not automatically close and he said it was not necessary for my door to automatically close.

14. In my repairs data it says on 12 June 2012 “newly fitted door have not been fitted properly”. This might be about the front door problem I reported although if it is then it does not describe the problem properly. I am surprised it does not include the change that was made to my door by the workman.

Stay Put policy and fire safety information

15. I would like to add further to what I said in my Phase 1 statement about fire safety in the Tower. I knew the policy in the event of the fire was to stay put. There were signs around the building. My understanding after reading the sign was that in the event of a fire I should stay in my flat, unless the fire was next door to me or in my flat. I remember receiving a leaflet through the door (which may have come from the TMO or RBKC) which had information about what to do if there was a fire. I think it told us that there was a Stay Put policy and explained what this meant. I relayed this information to Hanife as she does not read English.
16. There had been fires before in Grenfell (before the Refurbishment) and each time the firefighters who came to the Tower in response told me that we should stay inside our flat. Compartmentalisation had never failed before so there were no issues with staying in our flats when there was a fire in a flat.

Communal fire alarm

17. I have described in my Phase 1 statement how on the night of the fire I expected to hear the fire alarms in the communal areas but they did not make a sound. Only our fire alarms in the flat went off. In paragraph 3, I have described that I heard from someone that the alarms in the communal areas just sent a transmission to the fire brigade and that this was in line with the Stay Put policy at Grenfell Tower. I have said in my Phase 1 statement that I remember these communal fire alarms sounding off before 14 June 2017.
18. I still believe that had the alarms in the communal areas sounded off, then residents would have been alerted sooner to the fact that there was a fire and it was spreading and this could have saved some people's lives. I have said in my Phase 1 statement at paragraph 63 that if there was a fire in the building then I would have expected to hear the communal fire alarms. I couldn't smell smoke or fire or hear a commotion, so I didn't investigate further and I didn't think that there was a fire at this point. It wasn't until around 01:35 that I was first alerted to there being a large fire (because my brother-in-law sent me a photo of the Tower on fire on WhatsApp). I think that if I had heard the fire alarms go off in the communal areas I would have investigated earlier and I could have made an informed decision about whether we needed to leave the Tower. Some people may not have even known there was a fire in the Tower until the smoke entered their flats and it was too late to leave because of the smoke in the lobby areas and the stairwell.
19. I do not think that a Stay Put policy and a communal fire alarm sounding off are incompatible. I think that a fire in a high-rise building should not be kept from residents. You can know that a fire is happening in your building and know that the safest thing to do is to stay in your flat (unless that is if your building is covered in highly flammable products and so compartmentation won't work). If it does spread, residents should be aware of this and there should be a method of communicating this with residents and those affected, like a communal fire alarm.

The Refurbishment

20. I have addressed the Refurbishment of Grenfell Tower in my Phase 1 statement at paragraphs 37 to 54. I wish to add more detail about the Refurbishment in this statement.
21. Before the Refurbishment started, the Kensington Aldridge Academy (KAA) was built. There was a consultation period about the Academy, and some residents opposed this, including me and my family. There was a petition that we signed and I protested about this with other residents at the Town Hall in Kensington. I opposed it because I did not want to lose the car park by the Tower which our family and friends could use when they visited. I also did not want to lose the use the football pitches where children from Grenfell Tower would play on. It was a space the community could use and it was free to use. Even though I believe quite a lot of people in the area opposed the new school, it was built anyway.
22. The school looked nice and modern when it was finished but it affected us residents because we lost the open area around the Tower and the car park. I also believed at the time that it reduced access to the Tower for the emergency services, so the school made us less safe in the event of a fire. I thought at the time that a fire engine would no longer be able to get close to Grenfell Tower from the north side.
23. After the school was built, the Refurbishment works started at Grenfell Tower. I had heard rumors before that RBKC wanted to knock the Tower down, which I did not want to happen. Grenfell was my home where I had lived for years with my family and I did not want to move. However, I later received letters from the TMO about the planned Refurbishment. Residents thought that it was about time the TMO and RBKC did something for those living in Grenfell Tower. Of course, at the time we did not know about the combustible materials that were going to be used.
24. I remember receiving letters through the door from the TMO about the cladding to be used on the outside of the Tower. There was not much information the cladding other than what it was going to look like. The TMO also said that the cladding would make our homes warmer because of the insulation that they were putting behind it. I thought

the insulation would keep us warm in the winter and would be good for the environment.

25. I received a letter that the windows in our flat were going to be changed. Initially, I was happy about both of these changes. I was actually excited about the cladding going on the Tower as I thought it would make Grenfell Tower look nicer. The idea of living in a nice building, rather than an ugly looking one, gave me a good feeling.
26. I was not involved in any consultation process for residents about the cladding or any part of the Refurbishment. I did not know there was a consultation and I do not remember hearing about meetings about the Refurbishment. I did not know that residents could have a say about the changes that RBKC and the TMO were making.
27. During the Refurbishment we would receive standard letters about the works that were going to happen inside of flats. Workers would then come to the flat. I remember this happened when there was electricity and re-wiring work in my flat. These men worked quickly, although it took them two days to rewire the flat.
28. As explained in paragraph 48 of my Phase 1 Statement, we had new windows fitted in our flat as part. I think this happened in October 2015. These new windows looked nice. They made the flat a bit brighter. I did not have any problems with the windows. There were no gaps and I never noticed any draughts through the window.
29. As explained in paragraph 45 of my Phase 1 Statement, each flat had a new boiler installed as part of the Refurbishment. We did not have problems with heating in our flat before the Refurbishment, but we had problems with hot water supply. The boiler would not provide us with enough hot water due to lime scale causing a problem. We complained to the TMO often about this and they came to break the lime scale with a hammer.
30. The new boiler was fitted by the front door. We were not happy with the boiler being there as it made the area by our front door a space smaller. Other residents thought the boilers were being put there to save RBKC money as it was cheaper to install it there then to put it by the kitchen where the old boiler was. When the new boiler was put in,

we had to pay for hot water separately from our rent, which was new as before it was included in the rent. I was concerned that it would make living there more expensive and I did not know if we could afford that.

31. The pipes in the flat were also changed and we moved from running under the floor to running through the walls. We did not want this work done to the gas pipes and opposed this. In my neighbor Sheila's flat (Flat 132), when they installed the new pipes she lost gas in the flat for a long time and she was unable to cook. We did not want the work to be done in case we had the same issue. Hanife also saw these pipes in Sheila's flat and did not like them, because it made the flat look ugly as you could see them in the ceiling.
32. We opposed this pipe work being done in our flat for a long time. A woman from Rydon came several times to the flat and pressured us to have the work done. She told us that after a certain date, we would no longer have gas and there would not be anything they would be do to help us. We felt we had to have it done so we gave in.
33. As part of the pipework, holes were cut in the bathroom ceiling. At the time, I did not realise we had asbestos in our ceiling. Workmen came and scrapped the bathroom and toilet ceilings. It was only when I asked them why they were doing this that I was told by the workmen that we had asbestos. I asked if it was dangerous and they said no. They scrapped the ceilings and that was it. Hanife and I were home whilst they were doing this work. The workers were wearing white suits and had masks covering their mouths. We were not given any suits or masks to wear or told not to go in the bathroom.
34. As explained in paragraph 53 of my Phase 1 Statement, there used to be a concierge desk at Grenfell Tower. People would report any problems they had in their flats and in the Tower to the concierge. They were there 24/7, so offered security, as well as a point of contact for residents. I would feel safe knowing a familiar face was there in case something happened. This was removed when the layout of the lobby area changed during the Refurbishment, which I think was a bad idea because residents lost that point of contact and security. There also used to be a TMO office at the base of the Tower which was removed and moved about 100m away off site, which again made it less convenient for residents.

35. There was an incident where there was a power surge and all the electrical equipment in my flat that was plugged in to the sockets in the walls were damaged. A lot of our appliances were damaged and would not then work, including our TV and video recorder. The flat smelt like electrical burning. There was smoke coming out of the cables, which hurt my throat. When this happened, I panicked and Hanife and I turned everything off.
36. I asked someone at the Tower, who I think worked for the TMO but I'm not sure, whether it was safe for us to be in our flat, and they told me that the power surge was a "one-off" thing. The TMO refused to take responsibility for the power surge and damage. A number of residents met in the base of the Tower to decide what we were going to do about this and what action to take against the TMO. We all got a letter explaining that the TMO would not accept liability as it was not their fault. They said that they would offer to pay each family £250 out of "goodwill". I did not accept this. The damage caused was well above the £250 offered and I thought the £250 was meaningless if the TMO did not accept responsibility. We did not take legal action in the end as I did not have the time to do so. There were many residents who devoted their time to this, but people also had busy lives and jobs to do so I do not know the outcome of all this.

14th June 2017

37. I describe the events of 14th June 2017 in my phase 1 statement at paragraphs 55 to 130 and I gave evidence at the Inquiry on 1st November 2018.
38. After Hanife and I evacuated the Tower at 03:47, we were treated by paramedics on the street in a casualty area, where other survivors were being treated too. Hanife and I were given oxygen masks to breathe through but I still couldn't breathe. The paramedics gave me a glass of water, which I used to gargle in my mouth and when I spat it out, it was black and full of black phlegm. I then realized that all this black stuff down my throat and in my mouth and nose was why I was struggling to breathe. I then gargled more water and spat it out to get the black stuff out of me and I told Hanife to do the same.

39. We were taken in an ambulance to the Royal Free Hospital. I know from my London Ambulance Service records that I was first checked by the Ambulance service at 04:15 and we arrived at the Royal Free hospital at 04:40.
40. I was going through agony. I had a lot of questions in my mind about what had happened and why. I was panicking and I felt in shock. Hanife and I had inhaled a lot of smoke and I was questioning whether we would live, or if our lungs would be damaged for the rest of our lives. I was coughing up a lot of thick black phlegm and I still had soot in my mouth and nose. My feet felt blistered and my legs felt swollen which I think was from the heat inside the Tower. I felt really scared for the both of us.
41. When I arrived in hospital, I was still unable to breathe properly. I could not walk, but this both improved in hospital, although I was still coughing a lot. Hanife told me of the problems she was also having with breathing, and the pain she said she felt all over her body. In the hospital I had treatment for my breathing: I was placed on a nebulizer and I was given fluids. I was coughing a lot and my throat hurt. I had a number of tests done whilst I was there. I don't want to go into detail about this in my statement but the investigations and treatment I had will be recorded in my hospital records.
42. There were other survivors who were also being treated at the hospital. I remember Pily Burton and Rebecca (Steve Power's daughter) were there. I was alone on my ward; I was the only male patient from the fire that had been taken to that hospital, which was hard being on my own and away from Hanife.
43. My family came to see me in hospital. The ward and the corridors near the ward became full of people who were relatives of survivors, as well as people from the community and people looking for their missing relatives.
44. The police came to see me whilst I was in hospital. I think a police officer took some brief details from me.
45. I did not see a psychologist at the hospital as the doctors there were concentrating on getting me well physically.

46. I do not remember seeing a social worker in hospital or being visited by someone from RBKC or local government.
47. I was discharged from the hospital on 15th June 2017, although to me it felt like I was in hospital for days. I remember being there a lot longer. Hanife was also discharged on the same day as me.

Emergency Accommodation

48. Bayram, my brother-in-law, arranged with RBKC for us to stay in a hotel. He told me later on that he had called RBKC whilst Hanife and I were in hospital to arrange it. I don't know what number he used, or how he knew to do this, but he did.
49. When we were discharged from hospital, we were taken by taxi to the Hilton hotel on Edgware Road. I think that the taxi had been arranged for us so I did not need to pay for it, though I don't know who did and how it was provided. We did not have anything to take with us because we had lost everything in the fire, apart from the clothes we were wearing which really smelt of the fire.
50. I do not remember when we arrived at the hotel if we were told by the staff how long we were able to stay there for. At the time, I do not think I knew who was paying for the room. There was a lot of uncertainty. When we arrived at the hotel, the staff gave us our keys and showed us to the room which was on the 11th floor. It had a bed and a bathroom. Being on the 11th floor was difficult for me and Hanife because it was quite high up and we had to use a lift to reach the room. Because of what we had gone through, both Hanife and I struggled to use the lifts. It was hard being in there. Hanife had problems with her knees so she struggled to walk up the stairs; we had to use the lifts to get to the 11th floor.
51. At first I thought we would be in the hotel only a short time before we were rehomed so I did not want to complain about the floor level or ask to be moved. Then it became obvious that we were going to be there longer than I thought (though there was never any certainty). I did not want to complain about being on the 11th floor because my main concern at the time was that we had somewhere to stay and we were not out on

the streets. I did not want to be homeless. The hotel was also far away from our family and far away from where we had lived; this was difficult as our family had to travel to come and see us. Hanife's relatives all lived close to the Tower. Hanife doesn't speak English, and she is close with her family so living close to them is really important. It would have been better if we were placed in a hotel nearer to our family, but I did not want to be moved around. Having lost our flat and all our possessions, I wanted some stability in my life.

52. I was really anxious about how long we would be able to stay in the hotel. I did not know who was paying for the hotel but I knew that it was not cheap. There was not anyone from RBKC to say "you have the room for this period of time" or "you have it until we rehome you". There was about three or four families from Grenfell who were also staying in the hotel, but we mainly kept to ourselves. I thought the hotel staff treated us well. They knew we were from Grenfell Tower, but they treated us as they would have treated any other guest.

53. A lot of friends and family visited us in the hotel room in the days after the fire to see how I was and to try and help Hanife. I felt really drowsy in the immediate days after and I needed to sleep a lot. I think I was still in shock.

54. I don't remember being visited by someone in the council within the first seven days. I think someone came to see the family about re-housing us but that was it. I had a key worker called Nagus (I have described this below in more detail) though I am not sure whether he was assigned to us within the first seven days. I mainly spoke to him about housing.

55. A fire alarm went off in the hotel on 18th June whilst Hanife and I were in our room. Hanife and I panicked and rushed into the corridor. We checked where all the fire exits were and checked for smoke. We spoke to staff at the hotel and they said that it was a fire drill that happened every Sunday morning to check the fire alarms worked. I vaguely remember the hotel staff telling us about this before it happened, but at the time, the information did not really go in because we were still in shock after what we had been through. We panicked when we heard the fire alarm; it took us straight back to the night of the fire.

56. We were provided with breakfast in the hotel, but not lunch and dinner. Initially, transport was arranged for us to take us to and from the hotel to the Westway Centre for lunch and evening meals. It took a long time to get there from our hotel and we did not want to travel several times a day just to eat. We started doing our own thing for lunch and dinner and we would use money that charities had given to us.
57. One time, the hotel made a mistake and served Hanife bacon for breakfast (which for religious reasons we cannot eat.) Hanife was really upset about this. From then on we would not eat breakfast in the hotel in case it happened again.
58. We would have to do our laundry ourselves because this was not a service that the hotel offered for us and RBKC didn't make arrangements with the hotel for this. We would have to take our clothes to the launderette, which we were not used to doing, and then bring them back to the hotel.
59. Hanife and I moved out of the hotel into temporary accommodation in December 2017, some six months after the fire.

Visits to the hotel by volunteers and the police

60. In the first seven days, we were visited by a number of volunteers, and from various charities, who came to the hotel. Some gave us donations, like essential items, such as toiletries and clothes, things like that. There was a volunteer who remained anonymous and would regularly drop off boxes full of donations for us, including food.
61. I was also visited by the police in the hotel. I cannot remember if this was within the first seven days, or shortly afterward. They came to my hotel room and they took a witness statement from me about what had happened on the night of the fire. They asked Hanife to look at a newspaper article which had photographs of some of the residents who were missing and Hanife explained how she knew them. This made her cry and she was really upset that our neighbor Sheila was missing (later we found out that sadly she died that night, in the flat next to ours).

62. We both really wanted to know about whether our neighbors who were missing had died, or what had happened to them. It seemed that the information about what was going on was going through the police Family Liaison Officers (FLOs), but we did not have one. I think initially the FLOs were for the bereaved only. There were police meetings too but again they were initially for the bereaved. It meant that we did not get updates from the police about the investigation, when our friends and neighbours were missing. It could have been a year after the fire that we had an FLO called Eliff allocated to us but I am not sure. She was Turkish, which meant that she could speak directly with Hanife as well. She assisted with liaising with the company Kenyons to see what items could be recovered from our flat.

Relief centres

63. Hanife and I left the Tower with nothing. We needed clothes, food and essential items. We had no income and no savings, and simply did not know how were going to survive. We were not told about a plan for survivors and were just left in a hotel room.

64. Bayram was the person who told me what relief centres were open in the area and said that we should go there. He was the person in the days after the fire that was giving me direction on where to go to get help. He took it upon himself to get this information from others in the community. As far as I know, this information was not coming from RBKC or the TMO.

The Westway Centre

65. I visited the Westway Centre with Hanife and my family in the first seven days, possibly on the weekend after the fire. When I got to the Westway Centre, I saw that the Red Cross were outside and I gave them our details and I was allowed to go inside. There were a lot of different people working on desks and there was an area for donations for us to take. I remember seeing a desk for the Post Office, the Home Office, and psychiatrists from the NHS. I spoke to someone about getting financial support, though I do not know which organisation they were from.

66. There was a desk in the Westway Centre manned by RBKC and the TMO. I think it was for housing. I do not remember speaking to them. Later, I spoke to my key worker about housing.

Rugby Portobello Club

67. I visited the Rugby Portobello club on the fourth or fifth day following the fire. I had heard that survivors were gathering there to get information on donations and support and to find out information about what was going on and what had happened. There were still lots of people who were missing and rumours about the numbers of people who had died. Survivors and family members were organising themselves so we could support one another.

68. Whilst at the Rugby Portobello Club, Shahin Sadafi, another resident from the Tower, said that RBKC had left us to our own devices, so we needed to work together and help each other. From here, a group formed which later became Grenfell United. It helped many families who needed it, and provided information about where to get support and the police investigation. I wrote my name and contact details down to be part of GU.

The Community

69. The community came together in response to the fire. . Everyone was doing their bit to support us. We also received donations from the whole country. I was very emotional after the fire, and thankful that good people were helping us. We all needed clothes and food, and people were generous enough to step in and try to ease the suffering we were going through. I did not see anyone from either RBKC or the TMO in the first seven days following the fire.

Financial support, documentation and basic provisions

70. I visited the Rugby Portobello Club and St Clement and St James Church to receive financial support from donations, like the London Emergency Trust. These donations went directly into our bank account so we could use it to buy essential things and to begin replacing items we needed that we had lost in the fire. The Rugby Portobello Club handled most of the charity money. They were trusted by the bereaved, survivors

and residents. I think I also attended the Post Office and received an interim payment for support because we had no income.

Support and Information from RBKC

71. Following the fire, it felt like RBKC had just disappeared. There was no face on the ground from the government and no sense of leadership. There was a general feeling that RBKC were frightened of the resentment and the backlash there may be. However, I think that RBKC not being there, or leading the response, made feelings toward them worse.
72. It seemed as if RBKC did not have plans or a strategy to help us, and only responded when you approached them directly. Even then, no one from the council was present so it was very difficult to even ask for help, unlike the volunteers and the community who reached out to us.
73. Information should have been given to us quickly and in an accessible way. It was difficult for us following the fire to have to ask around for what to do and where to go. Even if RBKC were not able to relay information to us face-to-face, it could have been relayed to us what to do in another way. No one from RBKC ever told me what we needed to do to get certain things. They provided no leadership or organisation. I think RBKC relied on people going to the rest centres and fending for themselves.
74. We were lucky as we had our family who were a great help. However, it should not have been left to our family to be the ones to support us and get us the information that we needed.

Key worker

75. We were allocated a key worker called Negus. I think he came from Harrow Council. I cannot specifically recall when we first met Negus. He arrived at the hotel one day, produced ID and informed us he was our key worker. Negus did not help us with much really. He was replaced with a woman called Sharon Henry a couple of months after the fire. Sharon was helpful and was a kind hearted person. She would help with all

sorts of things, even things like getting car insurance. We used our key worker as the main point of contact for dealing with rehousing.

Information and Public Communication

76. In the first days all our information about what to do and where to go would come from Bayram. I later became a member of the Grenfell United WhatsApp group and I relied on this for information. This group became a way of reaching out to people. If people had any information about services that were being set up for the bereaved, survivors and residents, they would share it on this group.
77. We found out information about those who passed away in the fire from the news, or from the police giving brief statements occasionally in the media. It was a long time before we found out our neighbour Sheila and others had died.
78. There were a lot of rumours about how many people had died, with people becoming increasingly suspicious that the police were hiding the number of people who had died, as the media reports at the time said there were people had relatives who were still missing. I think the police were careful not to make announcements until they were 100% certain about the facts they were giving. However, the lack of information led to misinformation that built up; there was a real belief that hundreds had died and the state were trying to cover this up.

Impact

79. I do not wish to describe the impact that this had on my life, other than to say that I lost my home where my children grew up and all of my possessions. I lost friends and neighbours in the fire. Sheila, our neighbor and friend from Flat 132, died that night. I truly believed that I was going to die.
80. Now, two and a half years after the fire, Hanife and I are yet to be rehoused in a permanent home. The consequences of the fire and its affects are ongoing.

81. The London Fire Brigade should draw lessons from Sir Martin Moore-Bick's Phase 1 Report. The Government and Council decision makers should consider whether they would put their family in the flats, care homes and schools that are flammable. A fire like the one at Grenfell cannot happen again.

Statement of Truth

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

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

SIGNED:



DATE:

25-02-2020