

**GRENFELL TOWER PUBLIC INQUIRY**

---

**SECOND WITNESS STATEMENT OF MESROB KASSEMDJIAN**

---

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.

I, **MESROB KASSEMDJIAN**, will say as follows:

1. I make this statement for the purposes of Phase 2 of the Grenfell Tower Public Inquiry. This statement is an account of my personal experience of living in Grenfell Tower ('the Tower') and dealing with the Kensington and Chelsea Tenant Management Organisation ('TMO') and the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea Council ('RBKC') (**Module 3**).
2. This statement will also provide a brief account of my experience in the aftermath of the fire ('the fire') at Grenfell Tower on 14 June 2017 (**Module 4**).
3. I provided a Witness Statement to the Inquiry dated 13 May 2018 (**IWS00000951**) for the purpose of Phase 1 of the Inquiry. I also provided four statements to the Metropolitan Police Service dated 20 July 2017, 8 November 2017, 5 February 2018 and 20 December 2018 respectively.

**Background**

4. I am currently studying for a PhD in International Politics at SOAS University where I also work part-time as a Graduate teaching Assistant.

5. In 2009, I moved into my aunt's, Rita Tankarian, property, flat 141, Grenfell Tower where I was made to feel that this was my home. Fung Hee Cheung, now my fiancé, visited the flat every week and it didn't take me long to get to know other residents, particularly my neighbours, Khadjia Khaloufi and her husband, Sabah Abdullah, close friends of my aunt, Rita and neighbours for approximately 15 years.
6. Rita's flat was a one-bedroom flat on the 17<sup>th</sup> floor of Grenfell Tower. My aunt was, and still is extremely house-proud so the flat was always kept in good condition.
7. When Rita was in her early 20s, she had major back surgery and was advised that if she ever fell over, she would never be able to walk again. Ever since then she has always watched out when she is walking, taking care and looking at the floor. She doesn't take any risks and so she effectively has low mobility. She also has other health concerns.

#### **Fire safety**

8. I don't ever remember receiving any information from the TMO/RBKC or the London Fire Brigade about fire safety in the Tower. There were a few signs up in the communal parts building, I cannot recall exactly where. The signs stated that in the event of a fire, you should "stay-put" but that was it. If we got a leaflet about fire safety then I never noticed them.
9. I remember there being a fire in Grenfell Tower before the 14 June 2017, I believe that it was before the Tower was refurbished and the cladding was fixed. I believe that it was a small fire on the lower floors. I didn't leave my flat when this happened and I don't remember hearing an alarm go off.
10. Some fire exit signs in the communal areas pointing to the stairwell and I knew that the only way to get out if there was a fire was down the stairs. I had jokingly said to my Aunt some time ago that if there was a fire in the Tower then we would die because we would have to go all the way down the stairs to escape.
11. There were no sprinklers or an integrated fire safety system in the communal areas of the Tower. I don't remember ever hearing fire alarms going off in the communal areas.

There were fire extinguishers and a fire hose in the communal area, but I do not believe that they had these on every floor. On the night of the fire on 14 June 2017, I noticed that the firefighters had to prop open the doors between floors to use the hose from one floor on the next, because of that smoke was escaping between the floors. I can only assume that this was because not every floor had a hose or there was something wrong with some of the hoses. There were fans on the walls in the lobby area, which were to the left of the lifts.

12. I don't recall ever seeing firefighters coming to check fire safety features inside the Tower or inside our flat.
13. We had smoke alarms in the flat, one in the kitchen and one in Rita's bedroom. There may have also been a fire alarm in the bathroom but I can't be sure of this. The smoke alarms and gas in the flat were checked once a year by the TMO. I am confident that the alarms in the flat were working at the time of the fire because the alarm in the kitchen went off in the week before the fire, whilst we were cooking. Other than the smoke alarms, we had no other fire safety features in our flat.
14. The doors in the communal parts of the building would shut behind you quite quickly, they were very heavy. I believe that they were fire doors. The rubbish chute draw was also quite heavy and you would need to hold it open to use it, otherwise it closed automatically.
15. I was very disappointed when they changed the front door to our flat, it was a few years before they refurbished the Tower. I always felt that our original door was a very robust door. I felt like if I just kicked the new door, it would fly open. I felt less secure when they changed the door.
16. Another resident told me that the front door was a fire door. The front door would automatically shut but it didn't lock when it shut. This meant that sometimes the front door would blow open if the windows in the flat were open. The wind coming through the windows could blow the front door open and closed again. I can't remember if my letter box automatically closed or not.



17. I never took part in a fire drill at Grenfell Tower and I'm not aware of one having been done. I was never told of an assembly point or an evacuation plan for the building.
18. As I stated at paragraph 11 of my Phase 1 statement, I remember having a conversation with Rita before 14 June 2017 about fire safety. I told her that if there was a serious fire in the Tower, we should leave the building as soon as possible. I was always concerned that if there was a fire then the only way out was down the stairwell, so there might be a pile up of people trying to exit the building at the same time. Especially if all the residents decided to use it at the same time. I thought at the time that there were too many residents for one stairwell.
19. I was particularly worried for my aunt, who although independent and mobile, underwent spinal surgery in her 20s so she was always cautious when walking anywhere. This, in addition to her age, meant that it would take her slightly longer to get down the stairs, and would be extremely difficult if all the residents tried to leave the Tower at once.
20. The Council knew that Rita had mobility difficulties but she was never advised about what she should do in an emergency, so I felt it was my responsibility to make sure she was prepared.
21. The lifts were regularly out of service. They would often be out of service for a day or two at a time before anyone came out to fix them. Sometimes both of the lifts would be out of service at the same time, which meant that residents had to use the stairwell. When this happened one of the lifts would usually be repaired within a few hours and I would say it was rare for both lifts to be out of service at the same time but it did happen.
22. The lifts had been renovated before I started living in Grenfell Tower, so I can't say what they were like before this happened. I believe that the residents who owned their flats had to pay towards this and it was expensive.
23. On one occasion, I got stuck in a lift somewhere between the 14th and 16th floors. The lift violently shook and then dropped, I was sure that I was going to die. The buttons

weren't working, and I was trapped, it was terrifying. I called for help and someone heard me. It was a girl, who lived in the Tower, I'm pretty sure she was one of the girls who died in the fire. She was a young girl about 17 or 18 years old. She pushed the button to call the lift, it then went up to the 16th floor, and the doors opened.

24. From that day, I would usually choose to use the stairs instead of taking the lift up to our floor, but it was not always possible. I would have to use the lifts when carrying heavy shopping, or at night because the stairwell was not safe because there were people who were homeless sleeping in the stairwell on a regular basis and taking drugs. The TMO knew about this but did nothing about it. When I had to use the lifts, I never felt safe I always feared that I would be trapped again.

#### Dealings with the TMO and RBKC

25. Nobody trusted the TMO. Based on what I heard from my neighbours and from what I saw, the TMO were not taking us seriously, probably because we didn't have a lot of money.
26. We also didn't like to complain, so a lot of the time we would just deal with issues ourselves, for example Rita spent a lot of her own money re-doing the bathroom because it was in a horrible state.
27. Before the refurbishment of the Tower, there was an office at the bottom of the Tower, which dealt with housing issues for the estate. They had a reception, which was also the concierge for the Tower so it was generally easier to go down and speak to someone in the office whenever we had an issue rather than call. After the refurbishment, it became a lot more difficult. The lobby to the Tower also became unsafe because the concierge provided some security, after they were removed homeless people and people who weren't residents and wanted somewhere to take drugs, would regularly come into the building.
28. We really only had contact with the TMO when we needed something repaired urgently.

29. On a couple of occasions, there were electrical power surges. Most of our stuff was fine as it was charged into fused extension leads, which acted as a circuit breaker. However, we did have some items which were damaged. We felt lucky, because a lot of our neighbours had very expensive items damaged because of the surges. I don't remember them telling us why the surges were happening, someone came to speak to us and they might have explained, but I don't remember. The way the TMO dealt with the issue was to offer us some money.
30. They would usually put notices in the lift if the water was going to be turned off. I saw the link magazine, but I don't think I ever read it. No one ever told me that important information would be in that magazine.
31. All of our communication during the refurbishment was with Lynda Prentice, a Resident Liaison officer from Rydon not with the TMO. The TMO did give us some updates on the building works but this was through leaflets and newsletters, not in person.
32. When the work was completed, I don't think that they ever asked us whether we were happy with the work. I was happy about the view from the way the new windows looked but not about the pipes. I would have preferred them to clean up by the lifts.
33. I don't remember the availability of information from RBKC, the TMO or Rydon in other languages or in alternative formats for those who had disabilities.

### **The Refurbishment**

34. I'm not sure when I first heard that the Tower was going to be refurbished, but I remember having general conversations about it with our neighbours. I might have also seen some kind of notice.
35. I cannot say that before the refurbishment Grenfell Tower was aesthetically pleasing. I felt embarrassed when I invited friends over because the entrance and communal areas were dated and "grimy". Rita and I were pleased that the Council were finally going to do some work to the building, especially to the communal lobby and entrance.. Once



they refurbished the lobby at the entrance, it was very nice, but I believe that the cost of that was that there was no longer a concierge. Once they removed the concierge there were homeless people who were going into the building to take drugs every day.

36. The refurbishment involved putting cladding on the outside of the Tower, the windows in our flat were replaced with new ones, the heating was changed in the flat and we had a digital heating control dial installed on the wall of the flat. They said that they were going to do the cladding first then the insulation. They said it was for warmth but also to jazz up the outside. I don't know of a single change made during the refurbishment which improved fire safety in the Tower.
37. There were multiple complaints from residents during the refurbishments and petitions were started.
38. After the work started people were upset about the noise and the slow pace of work
39. When the contractors came to the Tower and started knocking on doors, requesting access. Rita and I let them in; we did not think that we had a choice because we were Council tenant and did not own the property. There were some people who resisted. There was a woman called Lynda Prentice, she was a Resident Liaison Officer ('RLO') between Rydon and the residents. She came to see us and she was nice but she was really just there as a public relations person. I believe that Rydon and the TMO bought in the RLOs, so that residents felt that they had a say in the refurbishment process, but in reality, that was not the case.
40. No one from Rydon ever asked if we had any vulnerabilities or so forth, but we assumed that the TMO would have shared that information with them. The TMO knew that Rita had mobility difficulties and we believed that they would have shared this with Rydon. There was no acknowledgement that there were people of all ages and an ability living within the Tower, which was evident when my aunt was not offered any support during the refurbishment such as help with moving heavy furniture.
41. The construction work was done around the summer of 2015. One day they did the windows and it took a couple of days to get them all done. On another occasion, they

did the pipes and the heating system. I'm not sure how long it was between the work on the windows and the pipe or what order it was done in.

42. Throughout the refurbishment work, there was drilling every morning, which drove us mad. For two years, Rydon were in and out of our flat and the Tower. The people who lived in the building were very upset about the workers using the lifts to do their work, because they were forced to use the stairs. This slowed people down, especially during the busy parts of the day, like the morning when they were leaving for work or taking children to school.

#### *Work in our flat*

43. When they were working in our flat, there was a point when a construction worker was about to drill into a wall in the living room and he suddenly stopped and said "*I'm not going near that – that's asbestos*". He called an engineer, I can't remember his name, he was a white guy in his 30s, he had a look and said it wasn't asbestos. I can't remember if he tested it, he just looked at it and said it was fine. I remember telling him that I slept in the living room, so I really wanted to know if it was something that wasn't good for me. He just told me not to worry but didn't give me any more information. I was concerned but I didn't think that I could do anything about it if they were insisting that it wasn't asbestos.

#### *Issues following refurbishment*

44. . At first, we were actually quite pleased with the windows; we thought that it made the flats look nicer. They did the windows from the inside and then they put the cladding on the outside of the windows. It was sticking open a fraction and I couldn't not close it. This made it really difficult for me to sleep (I would sleep in the living room) because it was really cold. I remember only being able to close it some months later.
45. After the new windows were installed and the workers left, we had trouble getting it to work. It was a bit tricky; there was a strange way to open it. We called Rydon and someone came to look at it, he told us that we just weren't using the windows in the correct way. He very briefly showed us how to open them and then left, but we still had trouble with them. I thought maybe it was just my fault for not knowing how to use



them, but I believe that other residents also had difficulties with the windows in the winter, I couldn't quite close it. It was very frustrating and it was so cold.

46. . The pipes that they installed in our flat for the new heating system were ugly. They were copper pipes. We could not understand why they had done it that way. Though we felt that it showed that they didn't care. Rydon put a couple of holes to put pipes through in the bathroom. We were upset by this because Rita had fixed the whole bathroom up, she spent £600 to get it all sorted, the new tiles were chic.
47. The pipes that came out of the new heating system; they went through into the corridor and then out into the area where the lifts are. I always assumed it was for water, and then one day one of the residents came, I think his name was Shah Ahmed, who told me that these were gas not water pipes. I was in complete shock. He was also troubled by this and said that: *"it is not a question of if, it's a question of when"* something happened, like a fire in the Tower. Shah Ahmed was concerned about the exposed pipes because he also knew that the only way to get out of the building was down the stairwell. He invited me to attend the resident meetings, but I was too busy at the time with my studies.
48. Shah told me that Grenfell Tower Leaseholders Association had been emailing complaints about safety in the Tower for years, but they had been falling on deaf ears. He said that but the complaints included issues of fire safety. He said that there was a culture of indifference at the TMO and RBKC.
49. Before the refurbishment, when you started up the stairwell there was a bit like a partition in the wall, almost like a vent system that would let air in and out, to allow ventilation from outside. They closed that in the refurbishment. You could tell that because they closed it off, there was nowhere for the air to go out. The stairwell used to be cool, but after they closed it, it was warmer. I believe that because of this, on the 14 June 2017, the poisonous smoke was more concentrated.
50. After the works, I also noticed that because of the cladding, it became much more difficult to see down out of the window, because the cladding was bulky. So on the night of the fire for example I had to lean very far out of the window, to look down before I could see the fire.

## **Aftermath**

*14 June 2017*

51. In my Phase 1 statement, I have already set out in detail my experience on 13/14 June 2017. I do not wish to repeat this here, however, for context; I will only briefly set out my experience after escaping the Tower.
52. After my aunt, my fiancée, Fung-Hee Cheung, and I escaped the fire and had left the Tower, the first thing I remember seeing was a woman with blood and something black around her nose and top lip. She was standing just outside the Tower. I thought that the fire might have started in her flat because she was hurt. She was trying to get back in to the Tower; I think she may have been trying to go back in to help get someone out. We passed a fireman standing at a side entrance to the Tower, and next to him was a girl, I believe that it was our neighbour Florentyna Sobieszczak. I did not know her well before the fire, but I remember that she had helped me when I was once trapped in a lift. Florentyna was telling us not to stand too close to the Tower as burning cladding was falling from the building above us. Quickly, we made our way to the area near the Academy and the Leisure Centre where we watched the fire rip through the Tower.
53. When we were leaving the Tower the fire was only at the 6<sup>th</sup> or 7<sup>th</sup> floors; however, within a few minutes the fire had reached around 15<sup>th</sup> or 16<sup>th</sup> floor. I realised very quickly that the firefighters' hose would not reach high enough, that they would not be able to stop it rising.
54. Outside the Tower, I saw Sabah Abdullah and asked him where his wife Khadija Khalloufi was; He wailed that he didn't know. Seeing him in such pain was incredibly upsetting. I had knocked on their door as we were leaving the Tower to warn them about the fire and hoped that they had both made it out.

55. There was a lot of confusion when we came out of the Tower. We could see people in their windows waving, screaming for help, shouting that they can't come out. It was horrifying to see people completely helpless.
56. I saw some people coming out of the Tower on stretchers and wearing oxygen masks. As the night went on, the screams I had heard earlier that night were lessening and it was dawning on me that many would not make it out of the building.
57. As I was standing there, the heat from the fire had made the air really hot, my throat was very dry, dryer than it has ever been, I was worried that we might have been inhaling toxins. I had left the Tower with my wallet, phone and cigarettes. I went to the corner shop to buy a couple bottles of water and some sandwiches for my aunt, Fung and the other residents standing with us. I gave a bottle of water to Shah Ahmad; he was very distressed and upset shouting, "*we warned them, we warned them*".
58. A police officer started moving us back from where we were standing near the Leisure Centre onto the small road by the Walkways; we still had a clear view of the Tower. We stayed there watching until at about 4am, until we heard from someone, a police officer or other residents, that the Rugby Portobello Club was open. At that moment, we had been standing with the Sobieszczak. Family - Michael, Florentyna and Liz (Elizabeth) we all decided to go.

### *Relief Centres*

59. We arrived at the Rugby Portobello at around 4.30am, I left Rita there with my dad, who I had called when we escaped the Tower. He had arrived in the area by that point, and had been standing watching the fire with us. I took Fung, to Holland Park tube station because I thought it was better for her to go home and rest rather than wait around with us. There was a lot of confusion and uncertainty. We didn't know what was going to happen and we did not know what to do. I thought at least Fung should be able to go home. Fung and I must have arrived at the station before 5am because tube was not running; I had to get back to Rita so Fung took a black cab home. I then went back to the Rugby Portobello Club.



60. When Rita and I first arrived at the Rugby Portobello, it was empty with only a few people there and a few chairs out; we must have been one of the first groups to arrive. There was no one there from the TMO/RBKC or any official organisations to assist us or to give us more information about what we should be doing. At around 5am or 6am it started getting busy. At around 6.30am people from an Islamic charity in East London arrived at the Club; they started handing out blankets, food, water - all the essentials to people in the Rugby Portobello Club and on the streets by the Tower. They must have been the first. Our MP was the only official I saw that day.
61. By 7am, the media arrived in the local area. My mum came down around 6.30am or 7am. I stayed based at the Rugby Portobello Club until around 6pm, walking back and forth between there and the Tower to see what was happening.
62. My mum and Rita spoke to someone; I'm not sure which organisation they were from, who arranged for us to stay at the Copthorn Tara Hotel, High Street Kensington. They didn't tell us how long we'd be able to stay, they gave us £150 and arranged for a taxi to take us to the hotel. I assume this person worked on behalf of RBKC but I'm not sure.

*Initial support after 14 June 2017*

63. We went directly to the hotel from the Rugby Portobello. I we felt grateful because did not know where we would be staying that night. We thought we might have to be sleep in the Rugby Portobello Club. Rita and I were given one room to share, with two single beds. I did not know that I could ask for my own room so we shared the room for 6 weeks before I was given my own room next to Rita's.
64. Volunteers from the local community around the Tower, managed to find out about which hotels survivors from the Tower had been sent to. They bought us toiletries, such as toothbrushes, toothpaste etc. These items, which I previously took for granted, were so valuable to us, especially in those first few weeks because it took the Council time to sort themselves out. It also helped that I had left the Tower with my mobile and

wallet as it meant that I had a little more independence than a lot of other survivors, in the first couple of hours and days after the fire.

65. Initially, only breakfast was included with our hotel stay, but after a couple of days lunch and dinner were also made available. No one had asked us about our dietary needs, and although the hotel food was suitable for me, it wasn't for all residents. After a few weeks RBKC gave us the option of either continuing to have our meals at the hotel or being given around £200 to £300 a week to eat out, I'm not sure of the exact amount. I stuck with the meals at the hotel.
66. After the first week it got tiring being in the hotel, we had no idea when we'd have a place again because RBKC were not giving us any information, we had no stability and no routine. It was very frustrating.
67. There were other residents staying in the hotel with us, the Sobieszczaks, Bobby, Natasha Elcock, Maher Khoudair and his family. Shahin Sadafi and his family. There were lots of people who we'd see all the time throughout the day, sharing information with each other. We didn't realise it but for the first few weeks after the fire, we were basically doing group therapy. We would share our stories and being honest with each other; it was so important.

#### *Communication, Information and Assistance*

68. Some time during the first couple of days after the fire, the Council sent a representative to our hotel to discuss housing with Rita and me. He was stone cold and straight faced, he asked us the same standard questions you would ask anyone applying for social housing. At no point did he ask about our welfare, and didn't seem to understand that he was talking to people who had gone through a traumatic event and lost their homes in a fire. It was not the way to do it. It unsettled us. I think RBKC realised that they got it wrong because 48 hours later they sent another person to go through the application with us; she was a lot better and clearly had some training as to how to communicate with us.

69. For the first couple of weeks following the fire, we were surviving on help from volunteers. The only immediate involvement the Council had with us during that period, was the day after the fire, when someone from RBKC came to see us and gave us £500. Other than that and the representatives who spoke to us about housing, we didn't see the Council even if they were around.
70. As the Council was not communicating with us during that period, there were a lot of rumours spreading about what was going to happen to us. These were usually worst-case scenarios. People thought that they would be left trying to rebuild their lives alone in the middle of nowhere. We were really worried.
71. After a month, people's anger and frustration grew. Communication from the Council was still almost non-existent; there was still so much confusion and uncertainty. The environment between survivors, which initially was supportive, became negative and sometimes toxic. When the Council finally started communicating with us, they should have thought a little more carefully about how they did so; they had lost our trust a long time ago, after years of ignoring us. They needed to work to rebuild that trust first.
72. I think the mistake RBKC made when discussing re-housing with survivors, was for example using the same terminology used for normal housing applications like "bidding". A lot of people already went through that process before and it was horrible, they spent years waiting and didn't want to go through that again. They should have been more sensitive and built trust, which was already going to be difficult for them.
73. We were in the hotel for 3 months and 2 weeks. On the first day of the "bidding" process some people went to view places, we didn't understand how they were prioritising people. We spoke to a volunteer called Remy, she was one of the best and most helpful people we spoke to. She would communicate on behalf of Tower residents with the Council. When we asked Remy for help, she called the Council and told them that Rita had high blood pressure and was struggling with staying in the hotel, so if something happened to her it would be their fault. The next day, a guy called Altin Samajli came from RBKC to speak to us about housing.



74. Another thing that really upset me and many of the other residents, was the way the Council spent the money donated to assist the bereaved, survivors and residents. We heard that £18m or £19m was given in financial assistance, but the Council used the money to provide places like the Curve and headquarters for Grenfell United. Not all the BSRs use these facilities. The Council may have felt that by providing these spaces they were helping all of the bereaved, survivors and residents affected by the fire, but I feel it was just a gesture.
75. It might sound callous but when you've lost everything what makes you feel safe is money. They should have split that money between all of us instead of assuming what we need. Having money would at least have helped us to get on our feet materially, whilst having to work through all of the emotional trauma. It's such a waste of resource and felt like an injustice, especially as we didn't ask for too much from them. The Council also didn't take steps to protect the money which was donated for the people who really needed it, a lot of people committed fraud received financial assistance which could have gone to those affected. It would have been understandable if only one or two people got away with it, but many people managed to fool them.
76. When financial assistance finally became available, from RBKC, we had to justify what the money was needed for. It felt incredibly patronising.
77. The Key Workers we have had have all been very nice, but they have been unprepared, which meant that the support they were supposed to provide has been non-existent. We always received information before they did, and when we told them, they would say "oh really. I'll get back to you on that". As we were receiving our information from the community, we didn't need a Key Worker. They may have been more effective if they were fully informed, and gave us some information about what to expect, but there has been absolutely no structure, which simply increased stress and uncertainty.

#### *Psychological support*

78. On the day of the fire, I spoke to a few journalists, I was in shock but I didn't realise. People were asking me questions so I thought I should say something, I did not realise that it would be national news and I cannot even remember what I said.

79. Even though we escaped the fire, emotionally it has, and continues to be, extremely difficult. For the first few weeks following the tragedy, the fire was on every news channel. We tried to avoid it, but it has been tough. Even seeing other survivors, who were initially a source of support, became difficult as they are a reminder of what we have been through.
80. I was heartbroken when I heard about all our neighbours who died in the Tower. Information came from the community, someone always knew something but it was always imperfect information. We always feared the worst. There was no official register of survivors or the missing, so in the first few days after the fire, the community started putting together its own lists. The person who put together the biggest list of survivors was a guy called Yousef (I do not know his last name), he didn't have any official role, he was a volunteer.
81. At the time, I was studying for a PhD. Although my University, SOAS, kindly gave me a laptop to use I was not able to work whilst living in the hotel. Although some of my thesis was saved in emails, I lost all my notes, books and articles I relied on for study in the fire.
82. I thought I that I might have been able to do some work during my break from studies, but I was not able to do so. What I went through has had a very significant impact on me personally and professionally, on my academic work. I do not wish to go into further details here in this public statement.
83. On the night of the fire, I broke a bone in my foot. As we were escaping the Tower I hit my foot against one of the stairs whilst helping Rita get down them. I didn't notice the pain at the time because of the adrenaline, and I think in the weeks after the fire I was so concerned about everything else that was going on that I didn't pay attention to the pain. I only discovered that I had broken a bone when I had a second injury.

*Further comments*

84. Although RBKC and the government eventually re-housed us and provided some financial support, the majority of the support we were received came from charities and religious organisations, the Islamic charities, the local Churches and the Red Cross.

**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: 

**Mesrob Kassemajian**

Dated: 26-02-20