

Statement of: Mohamed Sebbar

No. of statement: 2

Date of statement:

GRENFELL TOWER PUBLIC INQUIRY

SECOND WITNESS STATEMENT OF MOHAMED SEBBAR

I, MOHAMED SEBBAR, of an address known to my solicitors will say as follows:

1. I make this short second statement in relation to the fire at Grenfell Tower on 14 June 2017 and the phone conversations I had with my father, Abdeslam Sebbar, that night.
2. I find it very difficult to speak about what happened that night and have wanted to grieve in private which is why I have not previously been able to provide a statement detailing these phone calls, particularly my father's final phone call.
3. My father was 77 years old at the time of the fire and in poor health. He had lived in Grenfell Tower since 1978 and was the sole tenant of Flat 81 on the 11th floor of Grenfell Tower. He had had a number of vulnerabilities which meant that he was effectively trapped inside the flat.
4. On the night of the fire, I was in my home in South Kensington. At about 01:15 I received a call from my sister telling me that Grenfell Tower was on fire. I immediately drove to Grenfell Tower with my son, Youness Sebbar.

5. While I was in the car, I received a phone call from my father. It was approximately 01:20am. He said that the Tower was on fire and that he was at home waiting for the fire brigade to help him out. He was not too alarmed at this point and did not realise how serious the problems were.
6. I arrived at the tower at approximately 1.45am and stood immediately outside the Tower with my son, Youness.

Phone calls with my father on 14 June 2017

7. On the night of the fire, I spoke to my father on three occasions but for long periods of time. As outlined the first was while on my way to the Tower. Shortly after arriving I spoke to my father again at some time between 01.45 and 2.30am. I was constantly on the phone to him. At around 02:46 my son, Youness, phoned the fire service. He told the operator that my father was in Flat 81 on floor 11 or 14 and that he was stuck in the toilet and needed evacuating.
8. After this I was able to call my father again. His landline had stopped working and I was able to reach him on his mobile. He was in the toilet and was struggling to breath. I was on the phone with him until about 3:30am and believe I heard him pass away or fall unconscious. I do not want to describe the events, but this was a devastating call. After the phone cut out, I sat on a bench near the Tower in a state of utter shock. It was horrific. At 3:50am, while sitting on the bench, my nephew rushed up to me saying that my father had been seen in hospital. I knew this was not correct because I had been speaking with my father minutes earlier. I was short with him and shouted, 'my father is dead'. I remember looking at my watch at this time and recall that it was 3:50am.
9. My father passed away before this meeting with my nephew and was not before 3:30am. I do not have formal records of these calls but I clearly remember the time I spoke to my nephew and firmly believe my father passed away at or around 3:30am.
10. I struggle to come to terms with how my father died and of the events of that night. I still find it very difficult to discuss this but I wanted to clarify these matters.

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:

Mohamed Sebbar

M. Sebbar 

DATE:

20th May 2022