

Name of Witness:
Mariama El Hassani
Statement No : 1
Exhibits : N/A
Date : 22 June 2018

IN THE GRENFELL TOWER INQUIRY

PHASE 1 STATEMENT OF MARIAMA EL HASSANI

I, **Mariama El Hassani** of [REDACTED] Hurstway Walk, London, W11 1WD, **WILL SAY AS FOLLOWS:-**

BACKGROUND

1. I make this statement to assist the Grenfell Tower Inquiry. This statement is intended to cover the issues identified in Phase 1 of the Inquiry. I reserve the right to provide a separate statement addressing the issues to be examined in Phase 2.
2. The statements I make are from my own knowledge or belief unless otherwise stated. If not from my own knowledge I will identify the source.
3. My name is Mariama El Hassani. [REDACTED] I live at [REDACTED] Hurstway Walk, London W11 1WD with my three children, [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

14th JUNE 2017 AND THE HOURS LEADING UP TO THE FIRE

4. On the evening of 13 June 2017 I was at home with my three children. I went to bed at around 1am. I did not hear or smell anything unusual before I went to bed. My children were already in bed sleeping by the time I went to bed.

5. There had been no problems with the electrics and everything had been working fine. A few months before the fire someone came and installed new plugs in the building and I believe that new wiring was installed and some other things were done to the electrics but I am not sure what exactly was done.
6. I was in a deep sleep and I thought I was hearing things in my dreams. I thought I could hear a phone ringing, screaming and sounds of a helicopter. I woke up to my phone ringing and banging on my front door.
7. I had 10 missed calls by the time I woke up. I picked up the phone, it was my mother calling me. She told me that there was a fire at Grenfell Tower and that I need to get out of my flat.
8. My bedroom is downstairs. I put on my headscarf and some clothes, ran upstairs and opened my front door. My neighbour had been banging on my front door and when I opened the door, I was told that there was a fire at Grenfell Tower.

EXPERIENCE OF THE FIRE IN GRENFELL TOWER

9. I went into my living room, opened my balcony door and stepped outside. As I stepped outside and looked left towards Grenfell Tower I heard myself screaming in shock. The entire side of Grenfell Tower was on fire and I could hear people and children screaming.
10. I did not hear fire alarms.
11. The fire was on the right side of Grenfell Tower and you could see that it was starting to wrap itself around the building from right to left going upwards.
12. You could tell that people in Grenfell Tower had been sleeping and were only now starting to wake up because lights on the left side where the fire had not yet reached were turning on.
13. I woke up my children and told them to put on trainers and a jacket because we had to leave as there was a fire at Grenfell Tower.

14. We all left the flat together. We ran towards the back of the building out into the garden. There was a lot of people there already. People had come out of Grenfell Tower, through our block and then continued out through to the back garden.
15. Everyone was standing together and asking each other if they had mobile numbers for people living in Grenfell Tower or for school friends. It was obvious that some people were still asleep and everyone was trying to contact people inside Grenfell Tower to tell them to get out.
16. It looked like the stairs section of Grenfell Tower had caught fire first. The people would not have been able to get out and I think they would have needed a ladder or something to reach those people.
17. I could see that people were at their windows trying to breath for oxygen. At one window I could see a number of people at one window trying to breathe through a little gap. The windows in the Tower have safety locks on them so to open them fully you would need a key, I presume that some people couldn't find the key or didn't have it to hand so they could not fully open the window.
18. There was smoke coming out of the windows. The smoke was thick and black on the right side where the fire was but less thick on the left where the fire had not yet reached.
19. I remember there being a helicopter. I feel like the helicopter was just giving the people in Grenfell Tower false hope. I clearly remember there being one helicopter but there may have been more. It made me think "what are you doing there?". I feel like there was nobody making any effort to recue anyone.
20. I could see that some of the cladding was falling down to the ground and some of it was still on fire.
21. I am not sure whether I phoned one of my family members or if they phoned me, but I spoke to them and we arranged for my cousin to come and pick me and the children up to be taken back to my mum's. I believe we stood in the garden area for around 30 minutes before we left.

22. All the roads in the area where closed off. I could see that the fire engines were lined up behind each other and it looked like there was only one fire hose directed at the building at a time. It looked like they were unable to get any more fire engines closer to the building.
23. We left the area and walked all the way to Avondale Park Primary School on Sirdar Road. The roads had been blocked off and my cousin was not able to drive closer to the estate.
24. When I looked back at Grenfell Tower I could see that the fire was going around the other side. The fire went across the building so quick. It looked like it had started in a small area and then moved around the building very quickly.
25. I am not sure what time we left the area and arrived at my mums. My two older children were shocked about what they had seen and my youngest was very fearful. I had to stay with my children to calm them down, particular my youngest one.
26. In the morning, I left my children at home and I went back home. Smoke was still coming from the building and the fire was still burning in the inside of Grenfell Tower but it felt like it was over.
27. I was standing outside with people from the estate. I stayed there for hours not knowing what to do. Nobody came to tell us more information or whether it was safe for us to go back home.
28. I did not stay at my home but went back to my mum's who lives in Notting Hill Gate.

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

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

SIGNED

M. El

MS MARIAMA EL HASSANI

DATED

26/6/18