

IN THE GRENFELL TOWER INQUIRY

FIRST WITNESS STATEMENT OF SAIRA MALIK

**I MS SAIRA MALIK previously of 544 BRANDON WALK, LANCASTER WEST
ESTATE W1 1WL WILL SAY AS FOLLOWS:**

1. I make this statement in support of Phase One proceedings of the Grenfell Tower Inquiry.
2. I make this statement based on my own knowledge save where stated otherwise in which case it is to the best of my knowledge and belief.
3. I shall make a further statement in phase two about what happened after the fire and issues I have had.
4. I lived at the address with my son [REDACTED], whose flat it was, for a period of two and half years as his full-time care giver.
5. The flat has a clear view of Grenfell Tower and I can see around one and half sides of the Tower from the flat's balcony.
6. I attach relevant pages from MET000085727 which shows the rough view from my flat.

Signed *Saira Malik*
Dated *15-8-2018*

7. Having seen MET000085727 I believe my view point of the Grenfell tower would be South East Side.
8. The flat itself is on the 1st floor and I would say I am relatively close to the tower, although I could not give you an exact distance.
9. In the early hours of Wednesday 14th June 2017, I was in the living room of my flat at Brandon Walk.
10. I was talking to my friend Sajda Hassan on my mobile telephone, it was around 00.45 as I remember I had noted the time on my phone.
11. It was Ramadan and therefore I was still up. I normally go to bed earlier. My son was asleep at this time.
12. As it was a hot night my window was open and the door to the balcony during this time. We do have some net curtains, but I had pulled them aside so as to let in as much breeze as possible.
13. I told my friend that I could see some kind of fire or fireworks, it seemed small, so I was sure that they would get it under control.
14. I thought someone would have called the fire brigade, but I kept my eye on the fire whilst carrying on talking. I was growing concerned and alarmed, so I stopped talking to my friend and I eventually moved on to the balcony to look at it about 10 minutes after I first noticed the fire.
15. I assumed that at some point the fire would be under control. I noted, while I was taking videos, the fire brigade didn't seem to be on top of it from the angle I was

Signed Sauva Malik
Dated 15.8.2018

seeing it from. It looked like a losing battle with just one hosepipe trying to put out the fire.

16. It kept growing and I realised that it was a large fire. I felt growing frustration at the lack of progress the firemen seemed to be making.

17. In around twenty-five minutes the entire building was engulfed in flames.

18. I thought someone may have called the fire brigade as there was a helicopter over the Tower for a very long time.

19. It seemed to be there throughout the night.

20. I was informed later on this was for media which really upset me. I was expecting water to be thrown by the helicopter or a ladder to be unfurled for the people to be able to climb out.

21. I could see people trapped in the tower on the top floor and they were waving. I heard people screaming and a woman said "I have a baby save me first".

22. It was very painful to hear. Some people were calling for Jesus and saying we are trapped save us. I saw people at the windows with what I presumed were torches.

23. It seemed like a picture of hell or what I imagined hell to be.

24. I still hear the noises now in my head sometime. Desperate cries for help which I will never forget, and they still disturb me.

25. I was crying out for rain and was concerned for my son [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Signed Saima Malik

Dated 15-8-2018

26. I became frustrated by the apparent lack of action at the scene.
27. I eventually thought perhaps no one had called the Fire Brigade because the fire was still burning.
28. At 0142 I called the London Fire Brigade from my landline, [REDACTED] according to the telephone records.
29. I was on hold for six minutes.
30. I informed the operator of the fire and was told that the Fire Brigade was aware of it.
31. I continued to watch the fire from my balcony and I saw many people trapped in Grenfell Tower.
32. I saw people flashing torches and waving from the top two floors.
33. I also heard people shouting and vividly remember hearing a lady screaming that she had a baby.
34. I also heard terrible screams from the Tower.
35. I cannot describe anyone in detail as they just appeared as figures in the distance. They were just dark silhouettes.
36. I had my mobile phone with me the whole time and so I kept track of the time.
37. I was thinking at the back of my mind whether I should go and wake [REDACTED] and leave the flat in case the fire spread towards us. I was in two minds as what best to do.
38. At 02:30 my neighbour's daughter, I am afraid I don't know her name, who lives at 543 Brandon Walk W11 1WL, banged on my door and informed me that we

Signed *Sana Malik*
Dated *15-8-2018*

were being evacuated and that the Police had advised everyone to evacuate the building.

39. There was quite a lot of police present on the Lancaster West estate.

40. I then picked up my bag of vital documents, passport and driving licence.

41. I went to wake up my son who was very confused, but I didn't have time to explain the situation to him.

42. We then ran to St Clements Church at 95 Sirdar Road W11 4EQ which was open.

43. It was the closest place to go to as it was opposite where we came out of the building through a staircase exit.

44. There were lots of other people there and many familiar faces and neighbours.

45. It was chaos on the streets. There was confusion and great sadness at what we all have experienced and witnessed.

46. We were offered food sandwiches and tea and coffee at the church, but we weren't very hungry, and we were all like zombies as no-one had slept much.

47. At around 0830 I was escorted back to my flat by a police officer as my son's medication was there [REDACTED]

48. The Fire Brigade had cordoned off Treadgold street and there was a lot of media around.

49. I had concerns about returning to live in the flat due to potentially toxic fumes as the fire had gone on for some time.

Signed *Savira Malik*

Dated *15-8-2018*

50.

51. At 17:30 approximately my housing officer Mr Kofi said that you might not have anywhere stay tonight so he advised us to get in touch with the council so that we had somewhere to go tonight.

52. I called Notting Hill Housing Trust and they said they will see what they can do and then they called me back later and sent me to the Westway Sports Centre where the Housing Team were based.

53. They told me to go the Notting Hill Housing Trust desk where they explained that they had booked a room for us at the Travel Lodge on North End Road.

54. By that time, we were happy to have anywhere to go to lay down as we were both exhausted.

55. We stayed there for 3 days and were then moved to the Grosvenor Hotel, 101 Buckingham Palace Road SW1W 0SJ. We stayed there for over two months.

56. I have previously been inside Grenfell Tower about two years ago as I was bidding for a potential place for [REDACTED] and I to live.

57. I did not actually view a flat in Grenfell Tower but went onto one of the floors to get a feel for the building.

58. I did not like it as the building was a high rise and I felt intimidated by my ex-husband's views of what supposed crimes took place in these sorts of buildings.

59. I enclose Pictures I took on the night.

a. SM1 was taken on 14/06/2017 at 0838.

Signed. *Saira Malik*

Dated. *15-8-2018*

b. SM2 was taken on 15/06/2017 at 1304.

c. SM3 was taken on 15/06/2017 at 1323.

60. I also took 11 videos during the night of the fire and following morning.

61. From the videos you can see:

- a. Spread of the fire;
- b. Firemen fighting the fire;
- c. Lights in windows from torches or mobiles;
- d. Debris falling aflame from the Tower.

62. The Videos were taken from my flat initially and balcony::

- a. WA0012.MP4 This is the night of the fire, 14th June, where you can see fire is covering the whole of the right side of the tower and debris is falling off. Lights are on 7 to 8 of the floors with multiple lights on of flat occupiers. There are yellow/white flames at the top and bottom and billowy orange smoke in the middle. There is debris falling in an arc.
- b. WA0013.MP4 This is the night of the fire 14th June from outside the finger blocks you can clearly see white and yellow flames on the whole of the right side which are more stronger and more lights on particularly in the middle section of the block on about eight of the floors.
- c. WA0008.MP4 This video has a more long range view of the Tower and you can see the fire clearly above the tree line. Fire is about 4 to 5 storeys high and you can clearly see the water jet on the right-hand side.

Signed. *Savita Malik*

Dated. 15.8.2018

- d. WA0006.MP4 is a lengthy video from the night which shows the fire has now wrapped around the 3 sides of the tower. This is filmed closer up, so you can see some gaps in the silhouette of the tree's foliage with flames going up 4/5 floors. Flames are white yellow and are climbing to the roof of the building. Water jet can be seen on the right-hand side on the lower parts of the Tower where the flames are. You can still see lights on the 3rd floor down from top of the roof. You can see the flames coming out of a window on the left-hand side. On the right-hand side, the fire is raging out of control with debris falling.
- e. WA0005.MP4 is a short video from the morning showing flames going up two floors, with the video panning across Treadgold Street.
- f. WA0004.MP4 is a long video which shows the fire still reaching out of multiple windows on 4 different spots, reaching the floors above.
- g. WA0003.MP4 video taken further back in Treadgold Street with flames still clearly visible in the tower. Two fire engines with flashing blue lights are blocking the end of Treadgold Street and you can see local people/residents gathered in the road.
- h. WA0009.MP4 shows a closer view of the tower.
- i. WA0002.MP4 shows the Tower with thick billowing smoke with fire still being clearly seen in two of the floors.

Signed Savita Malik
Dated 15-8-2018

- j. WA0001.MP4 shows the Tower is now completely blackened with billowing thick grey smoke coming out on three sides. Can see fire still glowing dimly in some of the rooms.
- k. WA0000.MP4 Close up picture of the tower the next day which is now completely blackened and charcoal like. Billowing thick grey smoke coming out on three sides. Can still see fire glowing dimly in some of the rooms.

Signed *Saima Malik*
Dated *15-8-2018*

STATEMENT OF TRUTH

I believe that the facts stated in this Witness Statement are true.

Signed Saira Malik

Dated 15-8-2018

NAME SAIRA MALIK

Signed Saira Malik

Dated 15-8-2018