

Witness Statement of: Tamora Hurjak Oni

No. of statement: 1

Exhibits:

Date of statement:

GRENFELL TOWER PUBLIC INQUIRY

WITNESS STATEMENT OF TAMORA HURJAK ONI

I, TAMORA HURJAK ONI, will say as follows:

1. This statement is my account of events that took place on Tuesday 13 June 2017 into the early hours of Wednesday 14 June 2017, which I make for the purposes of Phase 1 of the Grenfell Tower Public Inquiry. I would wish to make a further statement to address issues falling to be dealt with in Phase 2 of the Inquiry.

Background

1. I moved to Testerton Walk in 2000 [REDACTED] I lived there with my three daughters, Laura [REDACTED]. It's the only place they have known. We really built a nice community and it used to be a good place and everybody knew everybody.

14th June

2. It was horrible, you know. I was sleeping when my sister called me and sent me a picture of it happening. That's how I found out. She lives around the corner [REDACTED] [REDACTED] I didn't believe it at first, she sent me another picture and then she rang me at about 1am. She said that there was going to be a fire in the building and I needed to get out. She sent me another picture and then I decided we really needed to get out.

3. I didn't even get dressed properly. I went to my kids' rooms as quickly as possible. They're lazy, you know, so I knew it would take them a while to come out. My daughter, she heard the baby screaming and was worried. She knew something was wrong because the screaming wasn't a normal scream. I said we needed to get out because there was a fire, and they were shocked. So they got up and we ran outside at about 1:15am.
4. When we come there, we saw the building and saw people jumping from the windows. I saw people running from their houses with only their pants on, people were trying to get them away from the building, pulling them.
5. I was worried that the building was going to fall, that it was going to fall on us because we are so close. I remembered 9/11 and I thought this is going to fall definitely on our house. I thought it was going to explode and crash in one minute. It was like a horror film. We wanted to try and help but people didn't allow us to help. I took my daughters and we tried to run to my sister's house, but some of the roads were blocked. It took us about fifteen minutes and I can't remember how, but we found a way to my sister's house. I felt like I was going to have a heart attack the whole time and they were saying, 'Mummy you are so pale'. We watched there for the rest of the night because you can see it from her place on the balcony. I didn't really sleep that night, neither did my daughters. I ran out on to her balcony at one point in the middle of the night because I was worried that it was going to fall on our house and was just watching. We stayed at my sister's house for a while after that. I was worried about my cat because we had to leave the cat behind. They let us go back to get our stuff but we couldn't take pets anywhere.

Impact

6. I am now suffering from PTSD. I'm on medication and seeing a psychologist. If I was not on medication I would be crying all the time. After it happened I couldn't sleep and had to take a glass of wine so that I could get to sleep. I stopped that now because no one should have to do that, it's not good. I haven't been able to sleep without anything since that night and am taking diazepam to help. I also wake up at the

slightest noise. I have to turn my phone off because anything wakes me up in shock. If I get a call past 1am, I almost have a heart attack, it's horrible.

7. I went to Croatia after it happened and I thought it would get better. Everything is danger now, you see life differently. In Croatia, I was staying with my Dad and when it rained I panicked saying, 'It's going to flood'. My Dad said there was definitely something wrong with me. I always think of the worst. Whenever I come back here I feel like I have stepped in to a war zone. It's like a war zone. I would like to come back here because I miss it around here. Where we are is not home. Here it is a nice community, we know people. Where they have put us is on a main road and there is nothing to do for my daughters. I have had to leave my job because I was always late; it's hard to get from the new place to work. I want to come back here but it's hard.
8. I used to see people living in the building. I saw them at the sports centre and we were in classes together but now they're not there. I remember coming out one time and saying to one lady, 'Wow, you live on the 22nd floor? How? It's so high up.' And she said, 'Yeah, it's not too bad'. Now I don't even see her, it's weird you know?
9. My daughters do not want to come back here. My eldest is Laura; [REDACTED] and goes to university in Canterbury. She was not there on the night but she saw it on the news and it affected her a lot. [REDACTED] it is worse and I have to look after her a lot. She didn't want to go back to university for three months after it happened and still is not back. She just doesn't care anymore. She sleeps 24/7. Before she was living with her boyfriend and he tried to bring her back here but she didn't want to. I don't know what to do. I argue with them all the time.
10. [REDACTED] was there on the night. She doesn't want to get tested by the doctor but I think she should. She still dreams about the night and doesn't really want to go to school. My youngest, [REDACTED] was there on the night as well. [REDACTED] She was tested but I think she needs to be tested again. She can't sleep sometimes, but she is probably doing the best out of them all.
11. Where I live now makes it hard for the girls to get to school. It is by Westminster and it is a long journey there and back every day, they are tired. They don't even want to

go to school and one has stopped going completely. I have trouble with the school and they want to fine me, but what can I do? I tell them she has sleeping problem. She sleeps during the day and awake at night. She says, 'Mummy I'm so tired, I can't go.' What can I do? It's hard. It's really stressful. They don't like living there either. It's busy and just not the same as where we were before.

12. They lost people they were in school with too. People that they used to just see, walking around. It's the people they grew up with and went to school with. It's difficult and so different to them.
13. I feel trapped where we are living now. They have told me that this is where I am so this is where I have to stay. The water is broken. It is either boiling hot or freezing cold and they won't fix it. My daughters do not want to shower there. When I ask them if they want to go back to our flat they say that they don't want to. They don't like it there anymore. I have to come back to feed my cat because I am not allowed pets where I am now. My cat has changed, it used to be a happy cat, walking around but now it is depressed and it scratched my friend. When I come back to my flat I can't open the windows because I start coughing. When I try to clean the house, the floors are black from what has come inside from the windows. Everything smells of barbeque in the house.
14. I don't want to have two places. After a year I thought they would have sorted my flat. Some people's they have but not all. It looks horrible now and no one is living there. It's like a scary movie, you know? The door is awful and the place doesn't look the same. It's just not the same.

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: *Tamora Hurjak Oni*

Dated: *28.06.18.*