

Claimant:  
Name of Witness : Yousif Saig  
Statement No : 1  
Exhibits :  
Date : 18 May 2018

**IN THE GRENFELL TOWER INQUIRY**

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**PHASE 1 STATEMENT OF MR YOUSIF SAIG**

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I, **Mr Yousif Saig** of [REDACTED] Barandon Walk, London, United Kingdom, W11 1WL,  
**WILL SAY AS FOLLOWS:-**

**BACKGROUND**

1. I make this statement to assist the Grenfell Tower Inquiry
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. I have exhibited a number of videos to this statement. These videos were taken by me on the night of the fire and should be viewed alongside this statement.
4. My name is Yousif Saig. I was born on [REDACTED] I presently live at the [REDACTED] Before the fire I lived at [REDACTED] Barandon Walk with my brother, Lotfi Sack. I lived there for about 11 years.

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

5. On Tuesday 13 June 2017 at around 11pm I was at home cooking. It was Ramadan and I had been fasting during the day. My brother, Lotfi, was also at home.

6. At around 1am my neighbour, Mohammed Jamal, knocked on the front door. I opened the door and he told me Grenfell Tower was on fire and we should go and have a look.
7. At roughly the same time, my brother had a call from our cousin, Ahmed Faied, who was at the [REDACTED] and lived in Flat 103 of Grenfell Tower. He told my brother that Grenfell Tower was on fire and that his wife, his two daughters, our aunt and two of our cousins were in Grenfell Tower. He said they had gathered there together [REDACTED]
8. We then left the flat and ran to Grenfell Tower. On our arrival there were about two fire engines and four to five police officers at the scene. Initially, the fire was coming from the fourth floor and the cladding of the fifth floor. It looked like it was spreading.
9. We ran insider Grenfell Tower and made our way to the stairwell in the reception area and started to make our way up Grenfell Tower to get our family members out. I believe this was at around 1.10am.
10. I was running up the stairwell and came up to about the third or fourth floor when I saw my aunt and cousin coming down the stairs. I then assisted my aunt who is disabled and uses a walking stick down the stairs and we all left Grenfell Tower together.
11. There was quite a few people leaving Grenfell Tower and a lot of people outside Grenfell Tower. People were panicking.
12. There was no smoke inside Grenfell Tower at the time. I did not hear any fire alarms and I did not notice emergency exit signs.
13. When I got outside, I took my family members to the green area towards the leisure centre and then I went back to try and get back into Grenfell Tower because I had friends that lived on the tenth floor. I was stopped by police before I could get to the front entrance of Grenfell Tower. I believe this was at around 1.20am.

14. At this point the police were starting to make a police cordon to stop people getting into Grenfell Tower. I could hear sirens and more fire engines were arriving. The fire engines were lined up behind each other and it looked like they were rotating because they could not all get to the front of Grenfell Tower.
15. I am aware that there were road works on Bromley Road and the fire engines were unable to get through that way. The road works had been going on for about a month before the fire but it was finished very quickly afterwards.
16. I stood just outside the police cordon. I was trying to call my friends who were in Grenfell Tower from my mobile but I was not able to get through because there was no signal.
17. The fire was vertically climbing up Grenfell Tower. In about 45 minutes ten floors were on fire. Once the fire reached the top the whole building was on fire. It spread very fast. The whole side of the building facing the leisure centre was on fire by 1:44am. Please see video exhibited.
18. The flames were red and orange in colour. I remember hearing a bubble sound and it reminded me of when plastic is being burned. It was very loud. I remember telling my brother that it was the cladding that was burning. We said that it was either the cladding or that someone must have put fuel on the cladding for it to burn like that. This was before 2am.
19. I then remembered that I had been cooking at home and had left the stove on. I decided to run back home to turn off the oven and the stove. I took me around 2 minutes to get home and this was at about 2am.
20. The balcony door in our flat was open and I could hear people screaming from Grenfell Tower whilst I was inside the flat. I could hear children's screams, the screams sounded like they were in pain.
21. I could see through the window that people were flashing their mobiles phones at the top of the building and people were screaming and shouting. People

were screaming for help and were trying to get out. I believe I was at home for about 10 minutes before I left again.

22. One of my friends from the tenth floor told me that she woke up at around 3am and called 999. She was told to stay put and use the water to flood the bath but when she tried no water was coming out. She said that she had been on the phone for 45 minutes waiting to be rescued and was then basically told that she was on her own and to try and make it out. She told me this on the night after she managed to make it out.
23. I came out of my flat at around 2.15am again at this point the whole face of Grenfell Tower was on fire. As the fire was spreading to the top I could see that mobile phones were going off and that is when you would know that somebody had died. We all knew these people.
24. When I came back out a fire engine with a crane arrived. That fire engine went straight to the front of the line of the fire engines. The other fire engines would rotate. When one ran out of water then the next one would move to the front and this went on for around 24 hours.
25. I believe that there was two water hoses being directed at Grenfell Tower at one time. One was the crane which reached the top floors and the other was only reaching up to the tenth floor.
26. There was smoke on the top of the tower floors before the fire had reached the area. I could see that smoke was coming out of peoples' windows and victims were opening the windows to let the smoke out. When the fire travelled round those people would then close their windows. Please see video footage exhibited.
27. I saw pieces of cladding falling off and landing on the grass and some close to where we were standing. We had to move out of the way so it would not hit us. It was on fire when it dropped to the ground.

28. There were around 10 of us and we managed to put it out by stamping on it. We did this because the grass was starting to catch on fire too. This was at around 3am.
29. The fire was spreading from the right side to the left and going upwards. You could see that the flats up to the tenth floor were not as badly affected because the water hose could reach those floors. All the floors above caught on fire and there was nothing that could be done.
30. I was standing outside and the heat from the building was insane. You could see that the flats were filled with smoke but even with the heat the people probably would not have survived.
31. I saw a man in a window and the fire brigade was directing the hose to his window. His window had been opened but he closed it when the fire was coming towards him. After a short while flames were coming out of that window.
32. I watched as another person was standing by the window and you could see that there was fire in the flat. Another person on the floor above was waving a piece of cloth out of his window and trying to get attention. Smoke was coming out of his window whilst he was doing that. Not long afterwards the fire also reached that persons flat.
33. I watched as the cladding was falling onto the roof of the Grenfell walk flats. I was still standing with a group of people and we alerted the fire brigade to it and they came and put it out. This was ongoing and did not stop. The fire brigade was using the same hose to put out the cladding that was falling onto the roofs of the Grenfell Walk flats as they were for Grenfell Tower. I believe that was at around 3am.
34. At around 4.10am I was standing with a group of people inside the Walkway Green between Barandon Walk and Testerton Walk around 100 metres from Grenfell Tower facing the left side of where the fire started. I saw the fire fighters standing near the stairs that lead to Grenfell Walk. One of the people in the group called one of the fireman over and we were then telling him about

the people we could see in the windows, how many we could see and where about they were located in Grenfell Tower. Please see video exhibited.

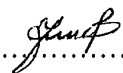
35. This fireman then ran back to the other fire service members and I presume he told them about the information we gave them. Shortly after that the police came and we were told to evacuate the area.
36. I then walked toward the Leisure Centre. A lot of the area was cordon off and I was standing on Treadgold Street.
37. The speed of how the fire spread was horrific. There was a lot of smoke and people were suffocating from the smoke. I was there until around 10am trying to help.
38. I remember it there was a lot of ash floating around in the air, almost like it was snowing ash. At the start of the fire there was a strong smell of burning plastic as the time went on and it became morning there was an added smell of burning flesh and the smell lingered for ages.
39. I tried to go back to my flat at around 8am to have a shower but I was told I could not. I was allowed to grab some belongings from the flat but I could not stay there. The whole area had been cordoned off.
40. I left the area at around 10am and went to my sister who lives in the Ladbroke Grove area about 10 minute walk from my flat. I rested for a bit because I was exhausted and I went back to the Grenfell Tower area at around 12.30 midday.
41. When I got back to there was a lot of media around. Grenfell Tower was still smoking and it looked like the inside was still on fire but the flames were not visible. The smoke was very thick.
42. At 5.30pm the crane from the fire brigade was still trying to put out the fire and this went on for the next 5 hours. Please see video exhibited.

43. I was there at the site helping and assisting until about 10pm that night. I then went back to my sister's flat. I did not eat anything for 48 hours. I was waiting for friends to come out of the tower.

44. The smell of burning lingered in the air for a few days. It went away but then when the wind picked up, could smell it again.

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  .....

**MR YOUSIF SAIG**

DATED 18.05.2018 .....