

RESTRICTED

3/6

Statement of: KINFU, ALMAZ

Form MG11(T)

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WITNESS STATEMENT

Criminal Procedure Rules, r27.2; Criminal Justice Act 1967, s.9; Magistrates' Courts Act 1980, s.5b

Statement of: KINFU, ALMAZ

Age if under 18: OVER 18 (if over 18 insert 'over 18') Occupation:

This statement (consisting of 4 page(s) each signed by me) is true to the best of my knowledge and belief and I make it knowing that, if it is tendered in evidence, I shall be liable to prosecution if I have wilfully stated in it anything which I know to be false, or do not believe to be true.

Signature: A KINFU

Date: 16/06/2017

Tick if witness evidence is visually recorded (supply witness details on rear)

I make this statement about a fire in my flat on Wednesday morning 14th June 2017 before 1am. This is Flat 16 on the 4th floor of a block called Greenfield or Grenfall Tower.

I arrived in the UK in 2009. I had arrived from [REDACTED] I came due to employment, I was a [REDACTED]

I live in Flat 16 on the 4th floor of Greenfield or Grenfell tower, I am not sure of the name.

It is near to latimer road. I have lived at the address about 3-4 months. The ower is a man called Bahilu.

I spoke with a friend of Bahilu called [REDACTED] who said to him that a lady has a problem and he asked him to put me there for a while. I had [REDACTED]'s number on my phone but left it in the flat. [REDACTED] worked in

Tescos on High Street Kensington. I think it is now closed so he doesn't work there anymore, he now works possibly near Notting hill Gate, still in tescos. He is a nice person who is helping me, I was homeless so needed somewhere to live. Bahilu said there is no problem you can come and live here, it is Gods house.

The flat has two bedrooms, a living room, a kitchen and a bathroom. My room is straight in the front as you go in. When you continue inside there is another room. There is also a kitchen.

The living room and kitchen are near one another. There is also a lady Elsa who lived there when I moved in and still does.

[REDACTED] They give me some money for food. I did not pay to live in number 16, Bahilu let me stay there short term for free. I don't know if Elsa pays. For me Bahilu is the owner of the flat. I don't know how long Bahilu or Elsa have stayed there for.

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On Wednesday morning 14th June 2017 the three of us were there when the fire happened. I am not sure of the time but it was before 1am. I was sleeping in room by myself as I sleep early.

Before going to bed Elsa [REDACTED] and the door was closed in the other bedroom. I took some tea in the kitchen and went to my room. I went to bed around 10pm I think [REDACTED] I am not sure if Bahilu was in or not as I didn't see him. There was nothing out of the ordinary in the flat at the time. I am not sure of the time but bahilu knocked at the door, I jumped on the bed after he said 'come out come out' to me. I was shocked and said 'what is going on' and he said 'fire fire' and 'fridge fridge'. I heard him calling Elsa too, he was saying 'Elsa Elsa get out'

There was a smell and smoke, it was dark in the flat when we were trying to get out, but there was light in the corridor. Bahilu said the fridge was on fire. I also had a small clothes bag with me, it was packed near to my door as I always kept it there and I grabbed it on my way out.

At that time I didn't see the fire, I wasn't in the kitchen. Bahilu was calling the fire brigade and saying 'come on as quickly as you can'.

Bahilu was then knocking on every door on the floor after, he was knocking on the neighbours telling everyone to get out.

I don't know any of the neighbours, I was so shocked all I remember was Bahilu knocking on the doors. I heard Bahilu calling 999 and asking for help and saying there was a fire, he was also saying 'fridge' and 'smoke' on the phone. I am aware to call 999 for help. I don't remember if I have heard Bahilu speak English before, I speak to Bahilu in my language, Amharic

Bahilu was wearing a white t-shirt. Elsa was in pyjamas, I don't remember what colour, I was shocked. I keep a bag with clothes in my room, I took it outside the flat with me and other people took it down the stairs for me. I didn't see if Elsa or Bahilu had any bags or anything else with them. A young male took it down for me and gave it to me at the bottom, I don't know him.

I didn't heard any fire alarm while I was on the stairs. There were lights on the stairs, everyone was running down the stairs. Most of them were frightened, shouting and crying.

People came and we came out of the building and could see fire coming out of the block

People were shouting and calling one another and making phone calls. It was in minutes that the fire was going up towards the top of the building.

I was grieving when I saw people they were moving at the top of the flats. [REDACTED] I was crying until morning. Then a person asked me what had happened and I told him the house I was staying with

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was on fire. He took me by car I said where to, I said to South Kensington as there are people I know there. I went to an old lady I know [REDACTED]

I don't know the man that drove me, the only time I met him was there. He is an old mature person, a black man. I don't know his name, he was outside the building where people were gathering. I wouldn't know how to get in touch with him again.

I didn't see anything else similar happen in the flat before. I think there are two fridges, one Bahilu doesn't use. There could be a freezer I don't know. All three of us use one fridge. As long as I have lived at the flat there have been no issues with the fridge before, it was working normally. I don't know where Bahilu got the fridge from or how old it was. There are sockets to put plugs into in the kitchen, but I don't know other than that if there are lots of plugs in one socket or anything.

I looked at printouts of exhibits ML/1, ML/2 and ML/3 and they are correct apart from the names on the bedrooms, my bedroom was the one furthest from the living room and the bedroom between mine and the living room was Elsa's.

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