

Witness Name: Gebremeskel

Statement No.: 2

Exhibits: 3

Dated: 17.10.18

THE GRENFELL TOWER INQUIRY

**Supplementary Witness Statement of Helen Gebremeskel
FLAT 186, 21ST FLOOR GRENFELL TOWER**

I, HELEN GEBREMESKEL, of [REDACTED] formerly a resident of Flat 186 Grenfell Tower, will say as follows:-

1. I make this additional witness statement as a supplement to my previous witness statement of 20 May 2018.
2. Since making my aforementioned witness statement of 20 May 2018, I have additional information that I feel would be important to the Inquiry. This information is held on my old mobile phone, which I have now received back. I had left the phone in the handbag of Andrea of Flat 183, as mentioned in my previous witness statement at paragraph 17. I had handed her my mobile phone to put in her bag at the time that we left her flat and started our descent of the stairs in order to escape.
3. Having since retrieved my phone from Andrea, I realised that on the morning of the fire I received two whats app messages and one voice message from Nadia Choucair of Flat 193 both at 1.48am. I have set out below the full details of these messages and call.

4. The first text message that came at 1.48am, and I received it while I was in the flat of Marcio Gomez. I did not hear or notice either of the text messages or hear the whats app voice message from Nadia coming through. All of the messages came through within the same minute i.e. 1.48am.
5. Around this time, I was receiving lots of phone calls and messages from many different people, who were contacting me to see where we were and if we were safe. Therefore, I missed the two text messages and the whats app phone message from Nadia.
6. The first text message said "Stay in", which I exhibit at Exhibit HG1, which I believe was Nadia telling me to stay in the flat, presumably in accordance with the stay put policy. Nadia is a teacher who always believed in following the rules, and as such I feel that she was following the "Stay Put" policy and was telling me to do the same.
7. The second text, which I exhibit at Exhibit HG2, that I received at the same time, said "Fire", which I believe was Nadia, telling me that there was a fire. When the two messages are taken together, I believe it was clear she was telling me that there was a fire and not to leave my flat.
8. Following the two whats app messages I received a whats app voice message, which I exhibit at Exhibit HG3, in which Nadia said "Hi Helen...." The next part is hard to hear but I believe she said "...towels underneath your door and stay inside the house. Don't go out". I could not hear all of the message due to the background noise including sirens. However, it is clear -taking into account the two text messages – that Nadia was telling me, what she had been told and that I should also stay put in my flat.
9. As stated above I did not hear or see these messages until some time later.
10. I know that the messages and voice message were Nadia as they came from her mobile phone and her name shows up as she is a saved contact. Further, I recognised Nadia's voice and she is the only person who would have been likely to call me from

the flat. Basim is the only other person who may have called me but it was definitely a female voice and as stated I recognise it as Nadia's voice.

11. I had not spoken to Nadia before 1.48am on the morning of the fire. However, as stated in my first witness statement of 20 May 2018 at paragraph 29, I spoke to Nadia (as well as other people) between 2.30am and 3.00am. I also spoke to Bassem after 3.00am as we were leaving the flat to make our escape.

Statement of Truth

I believe that the facts stated in this witness statement are true. I confirm that I am willing that the statement forms part of the evidence before the Inquiry, and may be published on the Inquiry's website, save for redactions indicated in the text, and those applied by the Inquiry.



Signed: _____

Helen Gebremeskel

17.10.18

Dated: _____