

WITNESS STATEMENT

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

Statement of: IBRAHAM, ANU

Age if under 18: Over 18 (if over 18 insert 'over 18')

Occupation:

This statement (consisting of 3 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: ABU IBRAHIM

Date: 18/10/2017

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

I am writing this statement as requested by the Grenfell Investigation team as there is a public enquiry being opened in relation to this horrific incident

On TUESDAY 13th JUNE 2017 I was on Aid -Counter Terrorism Security Patrols as part of Serial 244 on foot patrol in COVENT GARDEN from 1800hrs till 0200am that evening. At about 0150hrs when we were sat in the carrier waiting to be dismissed for the day, a call was circulated on the PR asking all units who were at the vicinity to standby as there is a fire in progress at KENSINGTON area.

The whole serial were sat in the carrier's on standby waiting to be redeployed is necessary, I was listening to the operator and I can vividly remembered the operator saying that there are parts of the building which is falling down. Hearing this I was concerned as to the severity of the fire and we all sat in silence listening tentatively to the PR.

At about 0155hrs we were redeployed and asked to assist to attend GRENFELL TOWER in North KENSINGTON. We were taken there by the serial driver on blues and twos as an I Grade emergency response.

As we were nearing the incident location, I saw from a distance a building on fire, this image is captured on my mobile phone, I have downloaded and exhibited the images as ANI1-ANI/5. I was speechless and

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stunned as to what I was witnessing from the carrier, at the same time I was listening to the commentary from the control centre operator and the advancement on the incident and deployment of all other who were attending location. The operator also mentioned that the fire brigade was already at location fighting the fire.

As we were approaching the scene, I saw several police carrier units approaching the location, traffic had built up and onlooker had gathered at this stage. I was in clear view of the burning building with no obstructions, the whole building was already on fire and the flame were immense.

The driver managed to get quite close to GRENFELL TOWER and managed to park near few hundred yards from the burning building.

From where we were parked, I saw GRENFELL TOWER totally in blaze, it was burning fiercely, and there were a small crowd which had gathered when we arrived.

It was apparent that they were mainly concerned family members and residents of the said tower. There were about 30-50 fireman who were already at scene, they were in their overalls rushing around with their hosepipe's fighting the fire.

The situation was chaotic, at this point people who were gathered around started to walk towards the burning tower wanting to gain entry to the burning building and participate in the rescue operation themselves and stated that they have families trapped in there. This was preventing the firemen to continue fighting the fire without being disrupted.

As all units were arriving at the same time, no cordons were sat up yet, I quickly ran over back to my carrier and grabbed a few rolls of cordon tapes, ran back and started to cordon off the roads to prevent the gathered crowd from getting closer to the burning building and this allowed the fire brigade to carry on their duties with less disruptions. I also passed a few rolls of cordon tapes to my colleagues so that more roads could be cordoned off.

People gathered to congregate just by the cordons, they were getting impatient and very angry wanting to

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be let in into the cordons, and some family members started to tear the cordon down and walked pass officers. They had to be stopped and asked to leave the cordoned off area, it was challenging and upsetting at the same time, residents and family members were very concerned as their family members either their wife, daughter, son, father, sister, brother and so on trapped in the building and waiting to be rescued.

I had a few anxious family members who came to me and handed over their mobile phones wanting me to speak to the persons who were trapped in the building, I spoke to some people who were trapped in the building and they were practically begging to be rescued as the condition in the building were impossible to be in.

Those who spoke to me stated that they are having difficulty breathing, they were coved in a black thick smoke any could not see anything, their flats were becoming too hot and I also heard screams and crying in the background.

One female I spoke to was trapped at the 6th floor with her 6 month old baby, she was begging me to safe her baby, I then took her exact location and pass the information to the fireman, unsure if either of them made it alive.

We were advised by the fire brigade command that we should advised those trapped inside the building should remain in and stay calm, fire fighters are working their way in and they will be rescued.

Whoever I spoke to either someone within the building or family members stood outside in the cordon with me, I was advising them that the fire fighters are aware and they are making their way up to rescue everyone as fast as they can.

I also advised those within the building that they should get some wet towels and place them at the main front door in order to reduce the amount of smoke coming inside their flats and stay low.

People's screams could be heard from where I was stood, the building was in fierce fire and the scene was heart-breaking, at about 0300am that morning the fire brigade command confirmed that the building were

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Form MG11(T)

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too dangerous and their firefighters would not be going ahead with the rescue from within the building.

At this stage we were told by the family members stood near the cordons that they have families still trapped at the 10th floor onwards and are waiting to be rescued, it was sad to break the news to families but at this stage we were telling them if they spoke to anyone inside the building then they should try to make their own way out.

We took turns to sit and move around cordoned areas, I walked pass the community centre where they were treating casualties', I saw a few tents up and I also saw a few body bags laid across in a line at the grass verge.

We were all on duty till 12pm that afternoon before we got debriefed and dismissed.

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