
WITNESS STATEMENT OF ANDARGACHEW SHIFERAW

I, Andargachew Shiferaw, brother of Fikeru Shiferaw, of Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, will say as follows:

1. I am the brother of Fikeru Shiferaw (“**Fikeru**”), who was one of the victims of the November 2021 tragedy. I have provided this information in consultation with my mother, Tezerash Zewde, and father, Shiferaw Tekalegn, and other family members where appropriate. My statement should be read together with the statement from my sister in law, Emebet Kefyalew.
2. I make this statement in order to provide relevant information to the ongoing Cranston Inquiry, examining the events of, leading up to and following 24 November 2021, based on my knowledge and understanding of the circumstances leading up to and during the events under scrutiny. The matters set out in this statement are within my knowledge unless otherwise stated.
3. I acknowledge that the information that I received from my brother prior to and during his journey may not always have been complete and/or accurate. I further wish to state that the events of 23/24 November 2021 were deeply traumatic for my family and me. My parents and I are struggling with our memories of what happened, and there were a lot of rumours circulating at the time, which may have caused us to misremember things. The passage of time of nearly three years may also have impacted my ability to recall all events and conversations fully or accurately.
4. This statement was prepared with the assistance of my legal representatives at Duncan Lewis solicitors.

Background

5. I am an Ethiopian national born on **Personal Data** I used to work as a tour guide for tourist groups in Ethiopia. However, there is very little tourism anymore because of the war in the Tigray Region, the Covid-19 pandemic which meant that people could not travel, and the ongoing tension in Oromia state, the largest regional state in Ethiopia, and the Amhara regions which are around Addis Ababa. There are still many areas with live conflict, so I am still struggling to find work. I have four Jeeps, which I used to use for my tours, but now I rent them out to NGOs working in Ethiopia in order to bring in some money.

6. I am the oldest of eight siblings in my family and Fikeru was the third oldest. Fikeru and I had a particularly close relationship within the family. We confided in each other, and I was one of the few people who knew that Fikeru was struggling before he left Addis Ababa. I was aware that Fikeru was trying to find a way to leave Ethiopia.
7. My work was mostly outside of the city because most of my tours were in the countryside. However, whenever I came into Addis Ababa, I would go and see Fikeru. My brother was a very content family man, who mostly spent time at home or working for his businesses. He was not a particularly political person. However, in 2018 the government changed. This led to many changes in Ethiopia and it affected everyone. For over 30 years the government in Ethiopia had been dominated by the Tigray People's Liberation Front. Since 2018, Abiy Ahmed has been the leader, and he is the head of the Prosperity Party. This completely changed the power dynamics between rival ethnic groups in Ethiopia. In November 2020 the war began in Tigray. That was a very dark time. Tigrayan people were at risk all over the country, and it brought with it a period of increased surveillance of, and violence against, any individual that the government had an interest in. My brother and I used to meet up and discuss how things were developing in the country.
8. In the months before Fikeru left Ethiopia in November 2021, he told me that he was being followed everywhere he went, and was afraid for his safety and his life. Fikeru was a successful businessman, with many friends and a family that he loved. He was an honest and calm person. This is why when Fikeru told me that he was seriously concerned that he was at risk, I knew that it must be serious. Fikeru did not go into detail about why he was being pursued, but I could tell from how serious he was in this conversation that he was in danger.

9.

Sensitive & Irrelevant

10. As far as I know, no one in our family has any more details about what Fikeru was going through at this time. He was a private man who wanted to make other people safe. It was not easy for him to be open about feeling afraid or insecure.

11.

Sensitive & Irrelevant

12. Fikeru told me he was planning to leave the country because he was so afraid. I think Fikeru believed that his life was at risk, and that he was worried that the people who were following him would kill him. I encouraged him to leave because I believed, and still believe, that if he stayed he would not have been safe. Fikeru told me that he did not have a specific plan about where he was going but that he just wanted to go somewhere safe. He did not have the luxury of choice. He just needed to get out of Ethiopia quickly.
13. I did not share this information with anyone at the time because it had been a private conversation. I do not think he told any of our other siblings, and he did not tell my parents. I believe that Fikeru did not want to bother my parents and worry them by telling them about his fears in Ethiopia or his plans to leave. My brother was the strongest member of our family, so he could not show weakness. He carried everyone and he did not want to disappoint them. He did not want them to know.
14. I think that Fikeru opened up to me about what he felt because I was his older brother. I think in a sense he was asking for my blessing when he told me that he needed to leave. This is the biggest headache I have now. I continue to struggle with this, and the dilemma always comes into my mind. I question whether I did the wrong thing by supporting his decision to leave. Sensitive & Irrelevant My only concern was his safety, but all of these questions have come to me since his death, and I find it very hard to handle these intense feelings of guilt and confusion.
15. I found out about the incident on 23/24 November 2021 and Fikeru's death because a friend of Fikeru's, named Name had informed my uncle (see para 19 below). I do not know Name surname. I later realised that Fikeru must have been sharing his plans with Name I think he knew a lot about Fikeru's plans. I think he helped Fikeru to get the visa to leave Ethiopia and believe that he must have been aware of Fikeru's plans to cross the Channel, otherwise he would not have known that he was one of the victims from the shipwreck. It is hard for me to forgive him. I do not have contact with Name because I feel a lot of anger towards him.

Journey from Ethiopia to France

16. After Fikeru left Ethiopia, I had very little contact with him because I rarely had phone signal or internet when I was working outside the city. I was in a hotel when he called me from Italy at the beginning of November 2021. I remember I congratulated him on being safe. I did not know before this phone call when exactly he was planning to leave the country, or that he would be going to Italy which is where he flew to from Ethiopia. Our conversation in Addis Ababa had not been very specific. He simply told me he was going to find somewhere safe. When we spoke in Italy, we did not discuss any plans. I thought he was safe and that he would just find somewhere to live and start his life in Europe.

17. The last communication my brother and I had was when he was in Italy; I did not speak to him after that.
18. I do not think that Fikeru told my parents or any of my family members that he had decided to make the crossing from France to the UK by boat. None of us were in direct contact with him on the night of the shipwreck. We do not have any details about the incident itself. If I had been aware that Fikeru was planning to make this dangerous crossing, I would certainly have told him not to do it.

Aftermath of the 23/24 November 2021

19. I first found out about the accident more than a week after it happened, because [Name] had seen a report on the French news, France 24, and told my uncle [Name] must have seen the news about the incident and become worried. This is why I believe he must have known about Fikeru's plans. I did not know at the time that Emebet was aware that Fikeru had tried to cross the Channel on 23 November 2021; as she had not told me that he had boarded the boat and not been heard from since. I now know that Emebet was not reading the news in the days following the 23 November 2021, and so she was not aware of the incident until we informed her.
20. As noted above, I was not told directly by [Name] that my brother had died. [Name] contacted me to ask for my uncle's phone number, which I gave him. He then broke the news to my uncle. My uncle asked me to go his car repair shop, where he told me I had to be strong. He broke the news to me, and just said your "*brother has passed away*". For me it was like an insane story, and I could not accept it. I felt it could not be true. Now when I am looking back, I am not sure what went on. I suspect now that [Name] had information about the journey and that he may have been advising Fikeru. At the time, we were in shock, and we did not really care or question how or why [Name] knew as much as he did. [Name] was an older, respected man, and so of course we trusted the information that he had given us. We were just trying to find out how to tell my family and Fikeru's wife that my brother had passed.
21. After my uncle had shared the news with me, we went first to Emebet's home very early in the morning with a few other family members, and then to my parents' home, to break the news to them about this accident and that we had been told that Fikeru was among the victims. This is how we share difficult news with family members in Ethiopia. I had been told by [Name] that Fikeru had died, and so this was the information that we passed on that day to Emebet and my parents. I was not thinking about the specifics of whether his body had been formally identified or not. We believed [Name] because it was such shocking information. On reflection, I suppose I did not consider that it was possible Fikeru was not amongst the victims.

22. At that time no one had heard from Fikeru for 11 days, and [Name] had told my uncle that he knew Fikeru had tried to make this journey on 23/24 November 2021.
23. My legal representatives have provided me with a draft of Emebet's statement on 11 October 2024. She explains in her statement how Fikeru's body was identified and brought back to Ethiopia, so I will not repeat this here.
24. We did not have very much information about what happened and why the boat was not rescued. I heard on the news and social media that the UK Coastguard did not rescue the boat and that they claimed the boat had not entered UK waters. I cannot recall if I heard this on the news, or if I heard it during the grieving process when many people were visiting to pay their respects for Fikeru. I remember that there were many rumours going on at this time. Fikeru had many friends and a big family, and everyone was reading different things on the internet and social media. It is hard for me now to disentangle the truth from all of the different stories that I heard at that time immediately after we found out about his death.
25. One thing that I read in the news which has really stayed in my mind was that other boats that crossed that night were rescued and arrived safely. I saw in the reporting in a Ghanaian news article that many distress calls were made from Fikeru's boat on 24 November to both the French and UK coastguards. I no longer have a copy of this article but I recall that it suggested that both coastguards knew that the boat was in trouble and that there was no explanation for why the boat was not rescued.
26. I do believe that the UK and French coastguards might have reacted differently if the boat that Fikeru was on had been carrying citizens from European countries. I often hear about boats sinking in the English Channel through the news and social media. It leads you to believe that the coastguards on both sides of the Channel are responding with complacency and without due regard to the lives of migrants.

Impact on our family

27. When Fikeru was still alive, he was the rock of our family. He was an incredibly supportive man who would care for anyone that needed his help. He was living a very good life with his wife and children in Addis Ababa. He was doing very well financially and was able to share this with his family. He was supporting our younger brother Yonas by paying for his medical treatment and helping my parents with their rent, their medical bills and their daily costs such as groceries. He was like a pillar of strength to everyone that knew him and when he died, this came crashing down and changed the lives of everyone who knew him.

28. Since Fikeru has died, our entire family have suffered a terrible emotional loss and on top of that, we have lost the key financial provider. Losing the breadwinner in the family has had a huge impact on us. My parents had to move out of their home, my father cannot pay for his medical bills anymore, and Emebet and the children are relying on her great-uncle to look after them. The consequences have been catastrophic. I want my parents to be able to lead a decent life but we are struggling to support them through this.
29. My parents have explained that everything in their lives fell apart after Fikeru died. My mother, Tezerash, used to run a small kiosk which brought in some money. However, my father, Shiferaw, had **S&I** when he heard the news of Fikeru's death, and has since then **Sensitive & Irrelevant** Tezerash stopped working and now acts as his full time carer. They are now entirely dependent on my other siblings to support them, mostly on my sister who sends remittances from Canada. They have moved to an area on the edge of Addis Ababa where they do not know their neighbours and they feel very lonely, but they could not afford to stay in their old neighbourhood.
30. My mother continues to suffer a lot from the loss of her son. She cannot speak about him without feeling this pain. She was in a state of complete disbelief when she heard that he had died in the Channel. When she heard the news that many people on the boat were calling for help but no one came to them, she was distraught. We do not understand how the coastguard could ignore the plight of these people.
31. Fikeru died so far away from home, in a place where we do not speak the language or understand the customs. This is very painful for us. We hope that this inquiry will help us to understand what happened to Fikeru and will result in holding those responsible for his death accountable.
32. We pray every day for his wife and children. We pray that they will find the strength that they need to carry on with their lives. We pray that we will be able to survive without Fikeru.

Statement of Truth

I believe the facts stated in this witness statement are true. I understand that proceedings for contempt of court may be brought against anyone who makes, or causes to be made, false statement in a document verified by a statement of truth without an honest belief in its truth.

Signed:

Date:

Name:



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Habibi Interpreting and Translation LTD
35 Pinner Park Avenue, Harrow, London, HA2 6JY
Email: info@habibi-interpreting.co.uk
Contact: PD 366/ PD 933

የአንዳርጋቸው ሺፈራው ምስክርነት መግለጫ

1. እኔ አቶ አንዳርጋቸው ሺፈራው፣ የፍቅር ሺፈራው ወንድም ከ አዲስ አበባ ኢትዮጵያ የሚከተለውን እላለሁ :-
1. እኔ በህዳር 2014 ዓም አሳዛኝ ክስተት ሰለባ የሆነው የፍቅር ሺፈራው (“ፍቅር”) ወንድም ነኝ ። ይህንን መረጃ የምሰጠው ከእናቱ ከ ወ/ሮ ተዘራሽ ዘውዴ፣ ከአባቴ አቶ ሺፈራው ተካልኝ እና ሌሎች የቅርብ ቤተሰብ አባላት ጋር መክሬ ነው። የእኔ ቃል ከወንድሜ ባለቤት፣ ወ/ሮ እመቤት ከፍያለው ቃል ጋር በአንድነት ይነበብ እላለሁ።
2. ይህንን ቃል የሰጠሁት ህዳር 15, 2014 ዓም የተፈጠረውን፣ ለመፈጠሩ ምክንያት የሆኑትን ነገሮች እና ከዚያም የሆነውን ነገር በመመልከት ላይ ለሚገኘው 'ክራንስቶን' ምርመራ ጠቃሚ መረጃ ለመስጠት ነው። በእኔ የተሰጠው ቃል በምርመራ ላይ ስለሚገኘው ክስተት በእኔ እውቀት እና መረዳት ልክ ሲሆን፣ የተጠቀሰው ሁሉ የተመሠረተው በሌላ መልኩ ካልተገለጸ በስተቀር እኔ የማውቀውን ነው።
3. ወንድሜ ጉዞ ከመጀመሩ በፊት እና በጉዞ ላይ እያለ የሰጠኝ መረጃ የተሟላ እና ሙሉ በሙሉ ትክክለኛ ላይሆን እንደሚችል እገልጻለሁ። ከዚህ በተጨማሪ ልገልጽ የምፈልገው በ ህዳር 14 /15 2014 ዓም የተፈጠረው ክስተት ለእኔ እና ቤተሰቦቼ እጅግን አስደንጋጭ እንደነበር ነው። የክስተቱ ትዝታ እኔንም ሆነ ቤተሰቦቼን ሁሉም ይረብሽናል። እንዲሁም በሰዓቱ ብዙ አሉባልታ ሲኖረኝ በመቆየቱ ነገሮችን በተሳሳተ መልኩ እንደናስታውሰ ሊያረገን ይችላል። በዚህ መሀል ሶስት አመታት በማለፋቸው የተፈጠሩትን ሁሉንም ክስተቶችን እና ንግግሮችን ሙሉ በሙሉ እና በትክክል ላላስታውሰ እንደምችል መግለፅ እወዳለሁ።
4. ይህንን ቃል የሰጠሁት በ 'ዳንካን ሉዊስ' ጠበቆች በሚገኘው ህጋዊ ወኪሌ እርዳታ ነው።

የኋላ ታሪክ

5. እኔ የ ኢትዮጵያዊ ዜጋ ስሆን የተወለድኩት Sensitive & Irrelevant ፣ ወደ ኢትዮጵያ ለሚመጡ ጎብኚዎች የ አስጎብኚነትን ስራ እሰራ ነበር ። ነገር ግን በ ትግራይ ክልል በተከሰተው ጦርነት ፣ በ covid 19 ወረርሽኝ ማለትም ሰዎች ከቦታ ቦታ መጓጓዣ ባለመቻላቸው የአስጎብኚነት ስራ ተቀዛቀዘ፣ በተጨማሪም በሀገራችን ኢትዮጵያ ትልቁ እና በ አዲስ አበባ ዙሪያ የሚገኘው ክልል ኦሮሚያ እና አማራ ክልል ውስጥ በነበረው ውጥረት ነገሩን አባባሰው ። በተለያዩ አካባቢዎች ግጭት እንደቀጠለ በመሆኑ እስካሁንም ስራ ለማግኘት እንደተቸገርኩ ነው። ለስራ እገለገልባቸው የነበሩ አራት 'ጂፕ' መኪኖች ነበሩኝ አሁን ግን ትንሽ ገቢ ቢያስገኙ በማለት ኢትዮጵያ ውስጥ ለሚሰሩ ግብረሰናይ ድርጅቶች እያከራየሁ ነው።

I have translated the above text from English into Amharic Language to the best of my knowledge and ability and command of both these languages. Translator- Fikrie Mulugeta Date: 23/10/2024



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Interpreting and Translation
Breaking the language Barrier

Habibi Interpreting and Translation LTD
35 Pinner Park Avenue, Harrow, London, HA2 6JY
Email: info@habibi-interpreting.co.uk
Contact: PD 366/ PD 933

6. እኔ ለቤተሰብ ከ ስምንት ልጅ የመጀመሪያ ስሆን ፍቅር ደግሞ ሶስተኛ ልጅ ነበር። ከሁሉም በተለየ በ ቤተሰቡ ውስጥ እኔ እና ፍቅር የጠበቀ ቁርኝት ነበረን ። ሚስጥረኞቻችን ነበርን ለዛም ነው ፍቅር ከ አዲስ አበባ ከመውጣቱ በፊት ብዙ ትግል ላይ እንደነበረ ከሚያውቁት ውስጥ አንዱ ለመሆን የቻልኩት። ፍቅር ከኢትዮጵያ ለቆ ለመውጣት መንገድ ሲፈልግ እንደነበር አውቃለሁ።

7. የኔ ስራ በአብዛኛው ከከተማ ውጪ ነው። ምክንያቱም አብዛኛው ጉብኝት ከ ከተማ ውጪ ስለነበር ነው። ነገር ግን በማንኛውም ጊዜ ወደ አዲስ አበባ ስመጣ ፍቅር ጋር ሄጄ እጠይቀው ነበር። ወንድሜ የቤተሰብ ሰው ሲሆን ፣ ጊዜውን ወይ ስራ ላይ አሊያም ቤት ውስጥ ነው ሚያሳልፈው ። የፖለቲካ ሰው ሚባል አልነበረም ። ነገር ግን በ 2010 ዓም መንግስት ተለወጠ። ይህም ኢትዮጵያ ውስጥ ብዙ ለውጥ አመጣ። ከ 30 አመት በላይ ለሚሆን ጊዜ የኢትዮጵያ መንግስት በህዝባዊ ወያኔ ሀርነት ትግራይ ነበር የሚመራው። ከ 2010 ጀምሮ አብይ አህመድ የብልፅግና ፓርቲ መሪ እና የሀገሪቱ ጠቅላይ ሚኒስትር ሆነ። ይህም በሀገሪቱ ያሉ ብሄረሰቦች መካከል ያለውን የስልጣን እርከን ቀየረው ። በ 2012 ዓም በ ትግራይ ክልል ጦርነቱ ተጀመረ። ይህም ከባድ የጨለማ ጊዜን ይዞ የመጣ ሲሆን፣ የትግራይ ሰዎችም በመላው ሀገሪቱ አደጋ ውስጥ ወደቁ። ይህም በማንኛውም መልኩ መንግስት እይታ ውስጥ የወደቀን ሰው ከትትል እና እንግልት ይዞ መጣ። እኔ እና ወንድሜም እየተገናኘን ነገሮች እንዴት እያደጉ እና ወደምን አቅጣጫ እየሄዱ እንደሆነ እናወራ ነበር።

8. ፍቅር ኢትዮጵያን ለቆ ከመውጣቱ ከ ወራት በፊት በ ህዳር 2014 ዓም በሄደበት ሁሉ ሚከታተለው ሰው እንዳለ እና ለሂወቱና ለደህንነቱ መስጋቱን ነግሮኝ ነበር። ፍቅር ብዙ የሚወዳቸው ጓደኞች እና ቤተሰቦች ያሉት የተሳካለት የቢዝነስ ሰው ነበር። የተረጋጋ እና እውነተኛ ሰውም ነበር። ለዚህም ነው አደጋ ውስጥ እንደሆነ እና ነገሮችም እንዳስጨነቁት ሲነግረኝ እኔም በርግጥም በጣም የተባባሰ ጉዳይ ነው ብዬ ያሰብኩት። ፍቅር ለምን ሲከታተሉት እንደነበር ባይነግረኝም የነገሩን እና የሁኔታውን መካረር እና አደጋ ውስጥ መሆኑን ከነበረን ምልልስ ለመረዳት ችዬ ነበር።

Sensitive & Irrelevant

10. እኔ እስከማቀው ድረስ ከቤተሰባችን ውስጥ በዚያ ጊዜ ፍቅር የደረሰበትን እና ያለፈበትን ነገር በጥልቀት የሚያውቅ ማንም ሰው የለም። ፍቅር ግለኛ እና የሌሎችን ደህንነት ለመጠበቅ የሚጥር እና የሚተጋ ሰው ነበር ። መፍራቱን እና መጨነቁን እንዲሁም ደህንነት እየተሰማው አለመሆኑን በግልፅ መናገር ለሱ ቀላል አልነበረም ።

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I have translated the above text from English into Amharic Language to the best of my knowledge and ability and command of both these languages. Translator- Fikrie Mulugeta Date: 23/10/2024



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Habibi Interpreting and Translation LTD
35 Pinner Park Avenue, Harrow, London, HA2 6JY
Email: info@habibi-interpreting.co.uk
Contact: PD 366/ PD 933

12. አንድ ጊዜ ፍቅር ለደህንነቱ በጣም ስለሰጋ ሀገር ለቆ ሊወጣ እንደሆነ ነግሮኝ ነበር። እኔ እንደሚሰጠው ፍቅር ሂወቱ አደጋ ላይ እንደወደቀ አምኖ ነበር። እናም የሚከተሉት ሰዎች ሊገሉት እንደሚችሉ ፈርቶ ነበር። አኔም ሀገር ለቆ እንዲወጣ አበረታታሁት ምክንያቱም ያኔም ሆነ አሁን ሀገሪቱ ውስጥ ቢቆይ ደህንነቱ ላይጠበቅ እንደሚችል ስላመንኩ ነው።

ፍቅር የት እንደሚሄድ ያለቀደ እና ያልወሰነ ቢሆንም ደህንነቱ የሚጠበቅበት ሀገር መሄድ እንደሚፈልግ ነግሮኝ ነበር። ለነገሩ ቦታ ለመምረጥ የሚሆን የቅንጦት ሁኔታ ውስጥ አልነበረም ምክንያቱም በተቻለው ፍጥነት ሀገር ለቆ መውጣት ነበር የፈለገው።

13. እኔም በሰዓቱ ይህንን መረጃ ለማንም አልነገርኩም ምክንያቱም በሁለታችን መሀል የተካሄደ የግል ሚስጥር ስለነበር ነው። እሱም ቢሆን ለ ቤተሰቦቼም ሆነ ለተቀሩት እህት እና ወንድሞቻችን ይህንን ጉዳይ የነገረ አይመስለኝም። እንደኔ እምነት ፍቅር በዚህ ጉዳይ ቤተሰብ ማስጨነቅ አለፈለገም ለዛም ነው በፍራቻ ውስጥ መሆኑንም ሆነ ሀገር መልቀቅ ማሰብን ያልተነገረው ። ወንድሜ ከቤተሰባችን ጠንካራ ሰው ነበረ ለዚህም ነው ደካማነትን ማሳየት ያልፈለገው። ሁሉንም ሰው ተሸክሞ ኖሮ ተስፋ ሊያስቆርጣቸው አልፈለገም። ለዚህም ነው ማንም እንዲያውቅ ያልፈለገው።

14. ፍቅር የተሰማውን ነገር ለእኔ የገለጠልኝ ታላቅ ወንድሙ ስለሆንኩ ይመስለኛል። መሄድ እንዳለበት ሲነግረኝ በተወሰነ መልኩ ፍቃዴን እየጠየቀ የነበረ ይመስለኛል። አሁን ያለብኝ ትልቁ ራስ ምታትም ይህ ነው። ሁሉም ስለዚህ ጉዳይ እያሰብኩ ግራ እጋባለሁ። የእሱን የመሄድ ውሳኔ በመደገፌ የተሳሳተ ነገር ሰራሁ ወይ ብዬ እራሴን እጠይቃለሁ። **Sensitive & Irrelevant**
Sensitive & Irrelevant እኔን የሚያሳስበኝ የሱ ደኅንነት ብቻ ነበር፤ ነገር ግን እነዚህ ሁሉ ጥያቄዎች እሱ ከሞተበት ጊዜ ጀምሮ ወደ ሃሳቤ ይመጣሉ ፤ እናም እነዚህን ከባድ የጥፋተኝነት እና ግራ መጋባት ስሜቶች ለመቋቋም በጣም ከባድ ሆኖ አግኝቼዋለሁ።

15. በኅዳር 14/15 ቀን 2014 ዓም ስለተፈጠረው ክስተት እና የፍቅርን ሞት ያወቅኩት የፍቅር ጓደኛ **Sensitive & Irrelevant** ለአጎቴ ስለነገረው ነው (ከዚህ በታች አንቀጽ 19 ን ይመልከቱ)። **Sensitive & Irrelevant** ሙሉ ስም አላውቅም። በኋላ እንደገባኝ ከሆነ ፍቅር እቅዱን **Sensitive & Irrelevant** እያካፈለው እንደነበረ ነው። እንደኔ ስለ ፍቅር እቅድ ብዙ የሚያውቅ ይመስለኛል። እሱ ፍቅር ከኢትዮጵያ ለመውጣት ቪዛ እንዲያገኝ የረዳው እና ፍቅር መሻገሪያውን ለማቋረጥ ያለውን እቅድ የሚያውቅ ይመስለኛል ፤ ይህ ካልሆነ ግን በመርከብ አደጋው ስለባ ከሆኑት መካከል አንዱ እሱ መሆኑን አያውቅም ነበር። እኔ እሱን ይቅር ማለት ይከብደኛል። **Sensitive & Irrelevant** ጋር ግንኙነት የለኝም ምክንያቱም በእሱ ላይ በጣም ብዙ ንድት ስላለብኝ ነው።

ገዛ ከኢትዮጵያ ወደ ፈረንሳይ

16. ፍቅር ከኢትዮጵያ ከወጣ በኋላ ስልክ ግንኙነት ስለሌለኝ ከእሱ ጋር የነበረው ግንኙነት በጣም ትንሽ ነበር። ከከተማ ውጭ ስሰራ ስለነበር ሲግናልና ኢንተርኔት ክስት አንዴ ነበር የነበረኝ። ጥቅምት መጨረሻ 2014 ላይ ከጣሊያን ሲደውልልኝ ሆቴል ውስጥ ነበርኩ። ደህና በመሆኑ የተሰማኝን ደስታ እንደገለጽኩለት አስታውሳለሁ። ከዚህ የስልክ ጥሪ በፊት በትክክል መቼ ለመሄድ እንዳሰበ አላውቅም ነበር ፤ ከኢትዮጵያ ወደ በረረበት ወደ ጣሊያን እንደሚሄድም አላቅም ነበር። አዲስ አበባ የነበረን ውይይት ብዙም ዝርዝር የነበረው አልነበረም። ቀለል አርጎ አስተማማኝ የሆነ ቦታ ለማግኘት እንደሚፈልግ ነው የነገረኝ። ጣሊያን ውስጥ ሆኖ ስንጋገርም ምንም ዓይነት ዕቅድ አላሳገንም። እሱ ደህና ነው ብዬ አስቤ ነበር እና የሚኖርበት ቦታ አግኝቶ ህይወቱን በአውሮፓ ይጀምራል ብዬ ነበር።

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35 Pinner Park Avenue, Harrow, London, HA2 6JY
Email: info@habibi-interpreting.co.uk
Contact: PD 366/ PD 933

17. እኔና ወንድሜ ያደረግኩት የመጨረሻው ግንኙነት እሱ ጣሊያን በነበረበት ጊዜ ነበር; ከዚያ በኋላ አልተነጋገርንም።

18. ፍቅር ለወላጆቼም ሆነ ለቤተሰቤ አባላት ከፈረንሳይ ወደ እንግሊዝ በጀልባ ለመሻገር መወሰኑን የነገራቸው አይመስለኝም። ማናችንም ብንሆን የመርከብ አደጋው በደረሰበት ምሽት ከእሱ ጋር በቀጥታ አልተገናኘንም። ስለ አደጋው ራሱ ምንም የምናውቀው ዝርዝር ነገር የለም። ፍቅር ይህንን አደገኛ የመሻገሪያ ጉዞ ለማድረግ ማቀዱን ባውቅ ኖሮ በርግጠኝነት እንዳያደርገው እነግረው ነበር።

ከህዳር 14/15 ቀን 2014 ዓም በኋላ

19. ለመጀመሪያ ጊዜ ስለአደጋው ያወቅኩት አደጋው ከተከሰተ ከአንድ ሳምንት በላይ ከሆነ በኋላ ነው፤ ምክንያቱም ^{Sensitive & Irrelevant} በፈረንሳይ ዜና ፈረንሳይ 24 ላይ ዘገባ አይቶ ስለነበር ለአጎቴ ነገረው። ^{Sensitive & Irrelevant} ስለ ክስተቱ ዜና አይቶ ተጨንቆ መሆን አለበት። ለዚህ ነው ስለ ፍቅር እቅድ አውቆ መሆን አለበት ብዬ ያመንኩት። እመቤት ፍቅር እ.ኤ.አ. ህዳር 23 ቀን 2021 መተላለፊያውን ለማቋረጥ መሞከሩን እንደምታውቅ በወቅቱ አላውቅም ነበር። እሱ ጀልባው ላይ እንደገባ እና ከዚያን ጊዜ ጀምሮ ስለሱ ምንም እንዳልተሰማ እጁ አልነገረቼኝም። እመቤት ከህዳር 14 ቀን 2014 ዓም በኋላ ባሉት ቀናት ዜና እንዳላነበበች አሁን አውቆአለሁ፤ ለዛ ነው እኛ እስከናሳውቃት ድረስ ስለ ክስተቱ ምንም አላወቅንም ነበር።

20. ከላይ እንደተገለጸው ወንድሜ መሞቱን በቀጥታ ^{Sensitive & Irrelevant} አልነገረኝም። ^{Sensitive & Irrelevant} የአጎቴን ስልክ ቁጥር ለመጠየቅ አነጋግሮኛል፤ ሰጥቼቀለሁ። ከዚያም ዜናውን ለአጎቴ ነገረው። አጎቴ ወደ የመኪና መጠገኛ ሱቁ እንድሄድ ጠየቀኝና እዚያም ጠንካራ መሆን እንዳለብኝ ነገረኝ። ዜናውን ነገረኝ “ወንድምህ ከዚህ ዓለም በሞት ተለየ” አለኝ። ለእኔ ይህ ሊታመን የማይችል ታሪክ ነበር፤ እናም ልቀብለው አልቻልኩም። እውነት ሊሆን እንደማይችል ተሰማኝ። አሁን ወደ ኋላ መለስ ብዬ ሳስበው ምን እንደተፈጠረ እርግጠኛ አይደለሁም። ነገር ግን ^{Sensitive & Irrelevant} ስለ ጉዞው መረጃ እንደነበረው እና ምናልባትም ፍቅርን እየመከረው እንደነበር እጠራጠራለሁ። በሰአቱ በድንጋጤ ውስጥ ስለነበርን ^{Sensitive & Irrelevant} እንዴት እና ለምን ይህን ያህል እንደማይቀር አላስብንም ወይም አልተየቅንም ነበር። ^{Sensitive & Irrelevant} በእድሜ የገፋ እና የተከበረ ሰው ስለነበር እና እሱ የሰጠንን መረጃ አምነን ለቤተሰቦቼ እና ለፍቅር ሚስት ወንድሜ መሞቱን እንዴት እንደምነግራቸው ለማሰብ እየሞከርን ነበር።

21. አጎቴ ዜናውን ከነገረኝ በኋላ ስለዚህ አደጋ ስለደረሰብን ዜና፣ ከተጎጂዎቹ መካከል ፍቅር እንደሚገኝ ለመንገር በጠዋቱ ከጥቂት የቤተሰብ አባላት ጋር መጀመሪያ ወደ እመቤት ቤት፣ ከዚያም ወደ ወላጆቼ ቤት ሄድን። አትዮጵያ ውስጥ ከቤተሰብ አባላት ጋር አሳዛኝ ዜና የምናካፍለው በዚህ መንገድ ነው። ^{Sensitive & Irrelevant} ፍቅር መሞቱን ነግሮኝ ነበር፤ ስለዚህም በእለቱ ለእመቤትና ለወላጆቼ ያስተላለፍኩት መረጃ ይህ ነበር። አስከሬኑ በይፋ ተለይቷል ወይስ አልተለየም የሚለውን ዝርዝር ሁኔታ እያሰብኩ አልነበረም። በጣም አስደንጋጭ መረጃ ስለነበር ^{Sensitive & Irrelevant} አምነን ነበር። አሁን ነገሩን ሳስበው ፍቅር ከተጎጂዎች መካከል ላይኖር ይችላል ብዬ አላሰብኩም።

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Email: info@habibi-interpreting.co.uk
Contact: PD 366/ PD 933

22. በዚያን ጊዜ ለ11 ቀናት ማንም ከፍቅር አልሰማም ነበር፤ እና ለአጎቴ ፍቅር ይህን ጉዞ በህዳር 14/ 15 ቀን 2014 ዓም ለማድረግ እንደሞከረ እንደሚያውቅ ነግሮት ነበር።

23. ህጋዊ ወኪሎች የእመቤትን የጥቅምት 1 ቀን, 2017 ዓም ቃል ረቂቅ ሰጥተውኛል። የፍቅር አስከሬን እንዴት እንደታወቀ እና ወደ ኢትዮጵያ እንደተመለሰ ቃልዋን ሰጥታለች፤ ስለዚህ እዚህ አልደግመውም።

24. ስለተፈጠረው ነገር እና ጀልባዋን ለምን እንዳልታደጓት ብዙ መረጃ አልነበረንም። የእንግሊዝ የባህር ጠረፍ ጠባቂዎች ጀልባዋን እንዳልታደጓት እና ጀልባዋ ወደ እንግሊዝ ውሃ እንዳልገባች እንደተናገሩ በዜና እና በማህበራዊ ሚዲያ ሰምቻለሁ። ይህን ነገር በዜና ላይ የሰማሁት ከሆነ ወይም በሐዘኑ ሰአት ብዙ ሰዎች ለፍቅር ለቅሶ ለመድረስ በመጠብቅ ወቅት የሰማሁት እንደሆነ አላስታውሰም። በዛ ጊዜ ብዙ አሉባልታዎች እንደነበሩ አስታውሳለሁ። ፍቅር ብዙ ጓደኞች እና ትልቅ ቤተሰብ ነበረው ሰው ስለሆነ ሁሉም ሰው በአንተነት እና በማህበራዊ ሚዲያ ላይ የተለያዩ ነገሮችን ያነብ ነበር። የእሱን ሞት ካወቅን በኋላ በዚያን ጊዜ ከሰማኋቸው የተለያዩ ታሪኮች ውስጥ እውነቱን መለየት አሁን ይከብደኛል።

25. በዜና ውስጥ ካነበብኩት እስካሁን በአእምሮዬ ውስጥ የቆየው አንድ ነገር ሌሎች ጀልባዎች በዛን እለት ሌሊት አቋርጠው ተርፈው በሰላም መድረሳቸውን ነው። በጋና የዜና ዘገባ ላይ በህዳር 15 ከፍቅር ጀልባ ለፈረንሣይ እና ዩኔ የባህር ጠረፍ ጠባቂዎች ብዙ የአደጋ ጥሪዎች ሲደረጉ እንደነበር አይቻለሁ። አሁን የዚህ ጽሑፍ ቅጂ የለኝም ነገር ግን ሁለቱም የባህር ዳርቻ ጠባቂዎች ጀልባዋ በችግር ላይ እንደነበረች ያውቁ እንደነበር እና ጀልባዋ ለምን እንዳልታደጓት ምንም አይነት ማብራሪያ እንደሌለ እንደሚያውቁ የሚጠቁም እንደነበር አስታውሳለሁ።

26. ፍቅር የተሳፈረባት ጀልባ የአውሮፓ ሀገራት ዜጎችን አሳፍራ ቢሆን ኖሮ የእንግሊዝ እና የፈረንሳይ የባህር ዳርቻ ጠባቂዎች የተለየ ምላሽ ሊሰጡ ይችሉ እንደነበር አምናለሁ። በዜና እና በማህበራዊ ሚዲያዎች በእንግሊዝ መተላለፊያ ውስጥ ስላሉ የጀልባዎች መስጠም ብዙ ጊዜ አሰማለሁ። በመተላለፊያው በሁለቱም በኩል ያሉት የባህር ዳርቻ ጠባቂዎች በስደተኞች ህይወት ላይ ትኩረት ሳይደርጉ በእርጋታ ምላሽ እየሰጡ መሆኑን እንድታምን ያረጋል።

በቤተሰባችን ላይ ያሳደረው ተጽእኖ

27. ፍቅር በህይወት እያለ የቤተሰባችን መከታ ነበር። የእሱን እርዳታ የሚፈልግ ማንኛውንም ሰው የሚንከባከብ የሚያስደንቅ ደጋፊ ሰው ነበር። በአዲስ አበባ ከተማ ከሚስቱ እና ከልጆቿ ጋር በጣም ጥሩ የሚባል ኑሮ እየኖረ ነበር ።

በገንዘብ ረገድ በጣም ጥሩ ነበር እና ይህንንም ለቤተሰቡ ማካፈል ችሎ ነበር።

ታናሽ ወንድማችንን ዮናስን የህክምና ወጪውን በመክፈል ይደግፈው ነበር። እንዲሁም ወላጆቼን የቤት ኪራያቸውን በመክፈል ፣ የህክምና ወጪያቸውን በመሸፈን እና የዕለት ተዕለት ወጪዎቻቸውን እንደ ሸቀጣ ሸቀጦች ያሉ ነገሮችን በመግዛት ይረዳቸው ነበር። እርሱ ለሁሉም ለሚያውቀው እንደ ጥንካሬ ምስሰ ነበር፤ እና ሲሞት ይህ ተበላሽቶ የሁሉንም የሚያውቀውን ሰው ህይወት ለወጣው ።

I have translated the above text from English into Amharic Language to the best of my knowledge and ability and command of both these languages. Translator- Fikrite Mulugeta Date: 23/10/2024



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Habibi Interpreting and Translation LTD
35 Pinner Park Avenue, Harrow, London, HA2 6JY
Email: info@habibi-interpreting.co.uk
Contact: PD 366/ PD 933

28. ፍቅሩ ከሞተ ጀምሮ መላው ቤተሰባችን ከባድ የሰሜት ስብራት ደርሶበታል። ከዚህም በተጨማሪ ዋናውን የገንዘብ አቅራቢ አጥተናል። በቤተሰብ ውስጥ ዋናውን አስተዳዳሪ ማጣት በእኛ ላይ ትልቅ ተጽእኖ ነበረው። ወላጆቹ ከቤታቸው መውጣት ነበረባቸው። አባቴ ከአሁን በኋላ የህክምና ሂሳብን መክፈል አይችልም። እንዲሁም እመቤት እና ልጆቹን እንዲንከባከባቸው የአያቷ ወንድም ላይ ነው ጥገኛ ሆነው ያሉት።

ያስከተለው መዘዝ አስከፊ ነው። ወላጆቹ ጥሩ ህይወት መምራት እንዲችሉ ማድረግ አፈልጋለሁ። ነገር ግን በዚህ በኩል እነርሱን ለመደገፍ እየተቸገርን ነው።

29. ወላጆቹ ፍቅሩ ከሞተ በኋላ በሕይወታቸው ውስጥ ያለው ነገር ሁሉ እንዳይቃለት አስረድተዋል። የኔ እናት ወ/ሮ ተዘራሽ የተወሰነ ገንዘብ የምታመጣ ትንሽ ኪዳን ስቅ ነበራት። ነገርግን የእኔ አባት አቶ ሸፈራው የፍቅሩን ሞት ዜና ሲሰማ Sensitive & Irrelevant አጋጥሞት ነበር እና ከዚያን ጊዜ

በኋላ Sensitive & Irrelevant አሁን ላይ እናቴ ወ/ሮ ተዘራሽ ስራ መሥራት አቁማ እንደ ሙሉ ጊዜ ተንከባካቢው እየሠራች ነው። ቤተሰቦቹ በአሁኑ ሰዓት እንዲደግፏቸው ሙሉ በሙሉ በሌሎቹ ወንድሞቹ እና እህቶቹ ላይ ጥገኛ ናቸው። በአብዛኛው ገንዘብ ከካናዳ በምትልክ እህቴ ላይ ጥገኛ ናቸው። እንዲሁም ቤተሰቦቹ በፊት ይኖሩበት የነበሩት መኖሪያ ቤት ውስጥ ለመቆየት የገንዘብ አቅም ስላጠራቸው የአካባቢውን ነዋሪ ወደማያውቁበት የአዲስ አበባ ጫፍ ገብተዋል። በዚህም ምክንያት በጣም ብቸኝነት እየተሰማቸው ይገኛል።

30. እናቴ ልጇን በማጣቷ አሁንም ድረስ ብዙ እየተሰቃየች ነው። ስለ እሱ ህመም ሳይሰማዎት መናገር አትችልም።

እናቴ የእሱን በመተላለፊያ ውስጥ መሞት ስትሰማ በፍጹም ያለማመን ሁኔታ ውስጥ ሆና ነበር። ዜና ላይ በጀልባው ውስጥ ብዙ ሰዎች እንደነበሩ እና እርዳታ እየጠሩ እንደነበር ነገር ግን ማንም እንዳልደረሰላቸው ስትሰማ እጅግን አዘናለች። የባህር ዳርቻ ጠባቂዎች እንዴት የእነዚህን ሰዎች አስከፊ ችግር ችላ ሊሉ እንደቻሉ ሊገባን አልቻለም።

31. ፍቅሩ የሞተው ከቤቴ በጣም ርቆ፣ ቋንቋውን በማንናገርበት እና ባህሉን በማንረዳበት ቦታ ነው። ይህም ለእኛ በጣም ህመም ሆኖብናል። ስለዚህም ይህ ምርመራ በፍቅሩ ላይ ምን እንደተፈጠረ እንድንረዳ እና ለእሱ ሞት ተጠያቂ የሆኑትን እንዲያዙ በማድረግ ይረዳናል ብለን ተስፋ እናደርጋለን።

32. እኛ ዘወትር ለሚሰቱ እና ለሌጆቹ እንጸልያለን። ህይወታቸውን ለመቀጠል የሚያስችላቸውን ጥንካሬ እንዲያገኙ እንጸልያለን። እንዲሁም ያለ ፍቅሩ

መኖር እንድንችል እንዲረዳን እንጸልያለን።

የእውነት መግለጫ

በዚህ የምስክርነት ቃል ውስጥ የተገለጹት ነገሮች እውነት ናቸው ብዬ አምናለሁ። በእውነት መግለጫ ሰነዱ ላይ በእውነታው ላይ ሳያምንበት የሐሰት መግለጫ በሰጠ፣ ወይም እንዲሰጥ ባደረገ ማንኛውም ሰው ላይ ፍርድ ቤትን ባለማክበር የክስ ሂደት ሊቀርብበት እንደሚችል ተረድቻለሁ።

የተፈረመበት Personal Data
ቀን:- 07/11/24

ስም: **አንዳርጋቸዉ ሸፈራው**

I have translated the above text from English into Amharic Language to the best of my knowledge and ability and command of both these languages. Translator- Name Date: 23/10/2024