
WITNESS STATEMENT OF ABDULLAHI MOHAMUD HASSAN

I, Abdullahi Mohamud Hassan, DOB: **Personal Data**, brother of Halima Mohammed Shikh, of Mogadishu, Somalia, will say as follows:

1. I am the brother of one of the victims of the November 2021 tragedy, Halima Mohammed Shikh (“**Halima**”).
2. I make this statement in order to provide relevant information to the ongoing Cranston Inquiry. My statement should be read together with the statement of my cousin, Ali Areef (“**Ali**”), which my legal representatives have shown me in draft form on 22 October 2024.
3. In this statement, I will focus on Halima’s life before she left Somalia and how my family and I found out about her death as a result of the incident on 23/24 November 2021.
4. However, it is too painful for me to think in detail about my memories with Halima in Somalia and so I have not been able to go into specific detail about this. I did not have regular contact with Halima after she left Somalia, which is why I have not provided any further information about her journey to France or the incident on 23 November 2021.
5. This statement was prepared with the assistance of my legal representatives at Duncan Lewis solicitors.

Background

6. I am a Somali national, born on **Personal Data** I live in Mogadishu with my wife and six children. I do not have a specific profession but sometimes I work as a labourer or as a driver. There is very little work available in Mogadishu, so I just take work when it is available.
7. Halima was my younger sister. She was born on 1 January 1988, though I understand that the death certificate issued by the French authorities incorrectly states she was born in 1998. She was my only full sister from both of my parents. My father had another wife, and I have other siblings from that family. My father passed away on **PD** He was killed by members of Al Shabaab.
8. Our mother, Madina Xuseen Xasan lives outside of Mogadishu. I try to visit her regularly

but this varies month by month. The place where my mother lives is where most of my extended family lives. It is a village of our clan, the Abgaal, in the region of Middle Shabelle.

9. Halima had three children. Two of Halima's children are living with my mother: Faiza Farah Mohamed Omar (13) and Abdikaafi Farah Mohamed Omar (9). Najib Farah Mohamed Omar (11), Halima's eldest son, spends most of the time with his father in Mogadishu but he also stays with my mother from time to time.

Somalia

10. Before Halima left Somalia, she was not working because she was spending her time looking after her children. She lived in Mogadishu with her husband until they divorced in 2018. After this, Halima remained in Mogadishu with her children until she left Somalia sometime in 2019. I am not sure of the specific date that Halima left. While Halima was still in Somalia, we used to spend a lot of time together with our children and other family members.

11. Halima left Somalia because of the political instability and violence. Somalia is a dangerous place, and it is difficult to live here because there is no work as a result of the instability. Halima wanted a better life for her and her children, and she went to Europe to try and make this possible.

12. I know that Halima left using her passport and she flew from Somalia to Turkey. From there, I am not sure how she travelled to northern France. My mother and I were not aware that she was planning to go to the UK and to cross the Channel by small boat. This entire incident came as an awful surprise.

13. Unfortunately, after Halima left Somalia, we were not in contact at all. I think she was in contact with our father after she left Somalia and during the time she spent in Europe. As my father has since passed away, I am not able to find out more information about this.

Aftermath of the incident

14. I heard about the incident of 23/24 November 2021 from my cousin Ali Areef. I cannot recall exactly when Ali called me to say that Halima had been in an accident and that she had died trying to cross the Channel from France to the UK, but it must have been around the last days of November 2021. I cannot recall this conversation very well as it was so shocking, and it was now almost three years ago. I do recall that Ali said the bodies had not yet been formally identified but that he was almost sure Halima had died in this

tragedy.

15. After Ali told me this information, I called my mother to tell her what I had heard. I started looking on the news to see if there was anything about the incident. I watched some footage on the BBC and read about the incident. I learned that many people had lost their lives. At this time, the bodies had not been identified and there was no information about Halima.
16. Ali was in contact with many people during that time trying to find out as much information as he could. Ali put me in contact with some people in the Somali community in France who knew Halima. It was on around 14 December 2021 that I received a photo of Halima's face from the morgue.¹ A few people from the Somali community in France went to identify her body and they shared this photo with me. From this photo, I was able to confirm that it was Halima.
17. After this, I was exchanging many messages with Ali and some people from the Somali community in France who were all helping to arrange a burial for Halima. It was not possible for her body to be brought to Somalia because it would have been too expensive and also, as a family, we were anxious to make sure that there was no delay in her body being buried as this is very important in Islam.
18. On the day of her burial, I received many videos and photos but unfortunately, I no longer have these as I lost my phone from that time. I was also on a video call that day so that I could see the burial. Many people attended from the Somali community. I am unsure exactly when the burial was, but I think it was soon after the identification of her body, which I think was in mid-December 2021. I cannot remember the specific date, or that time in general, very well because I was in a state of shock and deep grief.
19. Following the burial, my mother, my father, Halima's children, Halima's ex-husband and I all went to my father's home in Mogadishu to perform a traditional prayer for those who have passed away. Even though her body had not been returned to Somalia, this was something that we could do together to mourn Halima and respect her passing.

Impact

20. Halima was my only full sibling, and I loved her in a way that I have never loved anyone else. I find it so painful thinking about what happened to her. Every time I am asked about her, or I try to remember specific details, I just start to cry uncontrollably, and I cannot find the words to talk about her. It is better for me not to think about it too much, as I feel

¹ I am in possession of this photograph, but it is not being formally exhibited at this time.

overwhelmed by the emotions.

21. My entire family are still grieving the loss of Halima. My mother is unable to speak about Halima without breaking down emotionally. Halima's children continue to suffer the loss of their mother, but we are doing everything we can as a family to support them and give them the love they need.

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 made, a false statement in a document verified by a statement of truth without an honest belief in its truth.

Signed:

Date:

Name:



BAYAANKA MARKHAATIGA EE ABDULLAHI MOHAMUD HASSAN

Aniga oo ah Abdullaahi Mohamud Hassan, **S&I** ah walaalka Haalima Mohammed Sheikh, oo ka soo jeeda **S&I** Soomaaliya, waxaan oranayaa sida soo socota:

1. Waxaan ahay walaalka mid kamid ah dhibanayaasha masiibadii dhacday Noofeembar 2021, Halima Mohammed Sheikh ("Halima").
2. Waxaan u sameynayaa bayaankan si aan xog ku saabsan baaritaanka Cranston ee socda u bixiyo. Bayaankeyga waa in lala akhriyaa bayaanka aw baxshay ilma adeerkay, Ali Areef ("Ali"), kaas oo ay wakiiladayda sharciga igu tuseen si qoraal ah 22 Oktoobar 2024.
3. Bayaan kan, waxaan diiradda ku saari doonaa nolosha Halima ka hor inta aysan ka tagin Soomaaliya iyo sida aniga iyo qoyskaygu ku ogaanay geerideeda oo ka dhalatay dhacdadii 23/24 Noofeembar 2021.
4. Si kastaba ha ahaate, aad bay iigu adag tahay in aan si faahfaahsan uga hadlo xasuusta aan ka haysto Haalima inti an kuwada noolayn Soomaaliya, sidaas darteed ma awoodo in aan faahfaahin badan ka bixiyo. Si joogto ah umaan xiriirin aniga iyo Halima kadib markii ay ka tagtay Soomaaliya taas oo sababtay inaan bixin wax macluumaad dheeraad ah oo ku saabsan safarkeeda ay kutagtay Faransiiska iyo dhacdadii 23 Noofeembar 2021.
5. Bayaankan waxaa la diyaariyay iyadoo laga kaashanayo wakiiladayda sharciga ee Duncan Lewis Solicitors.

Asalka

6. Waxaan ahay muwaadin Soomaaliyeed, oo dhashay **S&I** Waxaan ku noolahay **S&I** oo aan la noolahay xaaskayga iyo lixdayda carruur. Ma lihi xirfad go'an, balse mararka qaarkood waxaan ku shaqeyaa shaqaale ahaan ama darawal ahaan. Shaqo si looga helo Muqdisho aad bay u adag tahay., sidaas darteed waxaan qabtaa shaqo marka ay soo baxdo.
7. Halima waxay ahayd walaashayda iga yar. Waxay dhalatay 1 Janaayo 1988, in kastoo aan fahamsanahay in shahaadada dhimashada ee ay soo saareen dawladda Faransiiska ay khaldan tahay oo ay ku sheegeen inay dhalatay 1998. Halima waxay ahayd walaashayda kaliya ee aan labada waalid wadaagno. Aabbahay wuxuu qabay xaas kale, waxaana



leeyahay walaalo kale oo ka soo jeeda qoyskaas. Aabbahay wuxuu dhintay **S&I**

S&I waxaana dilay xubno ka tirsan Al-Shabaab.

8. Hooyaday, Madina Xuseen Xasan, waxay ku nooshahay meel ka baxsan Muqdisho. Waxaan isku dayaa inaan si joogto ah u booqdo, laakiin inta jeer een booqdo way kala duwanaan kartaa bil kasta. Meesha hooyaday ku nooshahay waa halka inta badan qoyska ballaaran ee aan ka dhashay ay ku noolyihiin. Waa tuulo ay ku noolyihiin qabiilkeena, Abgaal, oo ku taal gobolka Shabeellaha Dhexe.
9. Halima waxay lahayd saddex carruur ah. Laba ka mid ah carruurta Halima waxay la nool yihiin hooyaday: Faiza Farah Mohamed Omar (13) iyo Abdikaafi Farah Mohamed Omar (9). Najiib Farah Mohamed Omar (11), oo ah wiilka ugu weyn ee Halima, inta badan wuxuu kula nool yahay aabbihiis Muqdisho, laakiin mararka qaarna wuxuu la joogaa hooyaday.

Soomaaliya

10. Kahor inta aysan Halima ka tagin Soomaaliya, ma aysan shaqeyneyn sababtoo ah waxay waqtigeeda ku bixinaysay daryeelka carruurteeda. Waxay kula noolayd ninkeeda Muqdisho ilaa ay is fureen sanadkii 2018. Kadib, Halima waxay ku sii nagaatay Muqdisho iyadoo la joogta carruurteeda ilaa ay Soomaaliya ka tagtay mar ay ku beegantahay 2019. Ma hubo taariikhda saxda ah ee ay Halima ka tagtay Soomaaliya. Intii ay Halima ku nooleyd Soomaaliya, waxaan waqti badan la wada qaadan jirnay carruurteenna iyo xubnaha kale ee qoyska.
11. Halima waxay uga tagtay Soomaaliya xaaladda siyaasadeed ee aan xasilloonayn iyo rabshadaha dartood. Soomaaliya waa meel khatar ah, waana adag tahay in lagu noolaado sababta oo ah shaqo ma jirto taasoo ay sababtay xasillooni darrida. Halima waxay rabtay nolol ka wanaagsan tan iyada iyo carruurteeda, waxayna u safartay Yurub si ay ugu dadaasho sidii ay tan uga dhigi lahayd mid suurtagal ah.
12. Waxaan ogahay in Halima ay ku baxday baasaboorka, waxayna ka duushay Soomaaliya ilaa Turkiga. Markaas kadib, ma hubo sida ay ugu safartay waqooyiga Faransiiska. Hooyaday iyo aniga ma aanan ogeyn inay qorsheysaneysay inay u safarto UK oo ay ka gudubto Kanaalka iyadoo ku safraysa doon yar. Dhacdadan oo dhan waxay noogu timid si lama filaan ah oo aad u xanuun badan.
13. Nasiib darro, kadib markii ay Halima ka tagtay Soomaaliya, maba aanan lahayn wax xiriir ah. Waxaan filayaa inay xiriir la lahayd aabbaheen kadib markii ay ka tagtay Soomaaliya iyo intii ay joogtay Yurub. Maadaama aabbahay hadda uu dhintay, ma awoodo inaan helo



macluumaad dheeraad ah oo ku saabsan arrintan.

Dhacdada Kadib

14. Waxaan ka maqlay dhacdadii 23/24 Noofeembar 2021 ilma adeerkay Ali Areef. Si sax ah uma xasuusto goorta Ali i soo wacay si uu iigu sheego in Halima aw shil ku dhacay oo ay geeriyootay iyadoo isku dayeysa inay ka gudubto Kanaalka u dhexeeya Faransiiska iyo UK, laakiin waxay ahayd dhamaadka bishii Noofeembar 2021. Si fiican uma xasuusto wicitaankaas maadaama aan aad uga naxay, sidoo kalena waxaa kasoo wareegatay ku dhawaad saddex sano. Waxaan xasuustaa in Ali uu sheegay in meydadka aan weli si rasmi ah loo aqoonsan laakiin ay u badneeyd in Halima ay ku dhimatay masiibadan.
15. Kadib markii Ali ii sheegay warkan, waxaan wacay hooyaday si aan ugu sheego wixii aan maqlay. Waxaan bilaabay inaan ka raadiyo wararka si aan u arko haddii ay jirto wax ku saabsan dhacdada. Waxaan daawaday muuqaallo ku saabsan dhacdada oo ku jiray BBC-da waxaan sidoo kale akhriyay warbixino ku saabsan dhacdadaas. Waxaan ogaaday in dad badan ay naftooda ku waayeen. Xilligaas, meydadka lama aqoonsan oo wax war ah kama hayn Halima.
16. Ali wuxuu xilligaas la xiriiyay dad badan isagoo isku dayaya inuu helo xog inta ugu badan ee macquul ah. Ali wuxuu igu xiray dad ka tirsan bulshada Soomaaliyeed ee Faransiiska oo aqoon u lahaa Halima. Waxay ahayd qiyaastii 14-kii Diseembar 2021 markaan helay sawirka wejiga Halima oo looga qaaday qolka meydadka.¹ Qaar ka mid ah bulshada Soomaaliyeed ee ku nool Faransiiska ayaa ubaxay si ay uso aqoonsadaan meydkeeda, waxayna ila wadaageen sawirkan. Sawirkaas ayaan ku xaqiijiyey in ay ahayd Halima.
17. Kadib intaas, waxaan isdhaafsaneynay farriimo badan aniga, Ali iyo qaar ka mid ah bulshada Soomaaliyeed ee ku nool Faransiiska kuwaas oo dhammaantood gacan ka geysanayey abaabulka aaska Halima. Suurtogal ma noqon in maydka Soomaaliya loo soo qaado sababtoo ah waxa kubixi laa qarash aad ubadan, sidoo kalena, anagoo qoyska ah waxaan ku dadaaleynay inuusan dib u dhicin aaska, maadaama tani ay muhiim katahay xaga diinta Islaamka.
18. Maalintii aaska, waxa la iisoo diray muuqaallo iyo sawirro badan, laakiin nasiib darro, hadda ma haysto maadaama aw iga lumay taleefankii aan markaas haystay. Maalintaas waxaan sidoo kale layeeshay wicitaan muuqaal ah si aan u arko aaska. Dad badan oo ka tirsan bulshada Soomaaliyeed ayaa ka soo qeybgalay. Ma hubo goorta saxda ah ee aasku dhacay, laakiin waxaan u maleynayaa inay ahayd wax yar kadib aqoonsiga meydkeeda, taas oo aan u maleynayo inay ahayd bartamihii Diseembar 2021. Si fiican uma xasuusto

¹ Waan hayaa sawirkan, laakin xilligan si rasmi ah looma soo bandhigin.



taariikhda saxda ah, ama xilligaas guud ahaan sababtoo ah waxaan ku sugnaa xaalad naxdin iyo murugo farabadan.

19. Aaska kadib, hooyaday, aabbahay, carruurta Halima, ninkeedii hore iyo aniga waxaan iskugu nimid guriga aabbahay ee kuyaal Muqdisho si aan taciis udigano. In kasta oo an maydka Soomaaliya loo soo celin, haddana tani waxay ahayd wax aan samayn karno anagoo si wadajir ah u murugoonayna oo tixgalinayna geerida Halima.

Saameynta

20. Halima waxay ahayd walaashayda kaliya ee aan labada waalid wadaagno, waxaan u jeclaa si aanan qof kale waligay u jeclaan. aad ayay u xanuun badantahay inaan so xasuusto wixii ku dhacay iyada. Markasta oo la i weydiiyo wax ku saabsan iyada, ama aan isku dayo inaan xasuusto faahfaahin gaar ah, waxaan bilaabaa inaan si aan la xakameyn karin u ooyo, mana hayo ereyo aan kaga hadlo iyada. Waxaa ii wanaagsan inaan aad uga fikirin, maadaama ay shucuur badan igu abuurto.

21. Qoyskeyga oo dhan wali waxay ka murugoonayaan geerida Halima. Hooyaday ma awooddo inay Halima ka hadasho iyada oo aan dareen ahaan usaamayn. Carruurta Halima waxay weli la dhibtoonayaan geerida hooyadood, laakiin anagoo ah qoyska waxaan sameyneynaa wax walba oo aan awoodno si aan u taageerno oo aan u siino jacaylka ay u baahan yihiin.

Bayaanka Runnimada

Waxaan rumeysanahay in xaqiiqooyinka lagu sheegay bayaankan markhaatiga ay yihiin kuwo run ah. Waxaan fahamsanahay in dacwad lagu soo oogi karo qof kasta oo sameeya, ama sababa in la sameeyo, bayaanno been abuur ah oo ku jira dukumeenti lagu xaqiijiyey bayaanka runnimada isagoo aan haysan rumeyn daacad ah oo ku saabsan runnimadaas

Saxiixa:

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Taariikhda: 7/11/2024 | 15:45:22 GMT

Magaca: Abdullahi Mohamud Hassan

I have translated the above text from English into Somali language to the best of my knowledge, ability, and command of both these languages. Translator: _____ Name _____ Date: 04/11/2024