Docusign Envelope ID: A9BC8D92-D40E-4A99-8208-BC6B1ECF279A

WITNESS STATEMENT OF HENOK HAILU GEBREHIWOT

I, Henok Hailu Gebrehiwot, born on PD of PD Addis Ababa will say as follows:

1. I am the older brother of one of the victims of the November 2021 tragedy, Meron Hailu Gebrehiwot ("**Meron**").

2. I make this statement in order to provide relevant information to the ongoing Cranston Inquiry, based on my knowledge and understanding of the events under scrutiny. Specifically, I will provide information from the period between February 2021 and November 2021. My statement should be read with the statement of my brother, Tesfahun Hailu Gebrehiwot ("**Tesfahun**").

3. The matters set out in this statement are within my knowledge unless otherwise stated. I wish to state that the events of 23/24 November 2021 were deeply traumatic for me and for my family. The passage of time has also affected my ability to recall some of the details of the events leading up to and the events of 23/24 November 2021.

4. This statement was prepared with the assistance of my legal representatives at Duncan Lewis solicitors. I have prepared a previous statement with my legal representative on 21 March 2022 for the purposes of requesting an Inquiry into the incident of 23/24 November 2021 [**INQ000070**]. I confirm that the contents of that statement are accurate, unless I have noted otherwise in this statement.

Background

5. I grew up in Adigrat, Tigray with my parents and siblings. My family consists of my father Hailu Gebrehiwot, my mother Libanos Berhe and my siblings: Tsigereda, Tesfahun, Birhane (half-sibling on our father's side), Birtukan, Ashenafi, Desbele and Meron: I was the second youngest sibling and Meron was the youngest, so we were very close. I left Adigrat in 2010 to study Sports Science at Addis Ababa University. I am currently unemployed.

6. Meron was very slim built and around 163cm in height. To my knowledge, Meron had not been diagnosed with any physical or mental health conditions, and she was not taking any medication. I don't believe that Meron had ever learned to swim.

7. I know she was under a lot of stress before she left Ethiopia. She felt a lot of fear being in Tigray and was very worried about our family. I know the war was a frightening and difficult time for my family who remained in Tigray. Although Meron did not share anything with me about her mental health generally, she had suffered a lot of trauma as a result of having to flee our home in Adigrat and move around to find refuge from the Tigray war.

8. I was not in Tigray when the conflict broke out. I was living in Addis Ababa, where I had lived since moving for university in 2010. Before the conflict, I had been self-employed, working in wholesales. I was the only one of my siblings who was in Addis Ababa when the conflict broke out; the rest of my family were in Tigray. Apart from Meron and Tesfahun, who came to Addis Ababa in early 2021, I did not see any other members of my family from the time the conflict broke out until the roads from Mekelle to Addis were fully reopened after the Pretoria Agreement was signed in November 2022.

9. My brother Tesfahun came to Addis Ababa in early 2021. He came on his own and left his wife and son in Adrigat. He was only in Addis Ababa for a few weeks and he stayed with one of our cousins, Zeresnay. He then left Ethiopia in early February 2021 and went to South Sudan to find work and support his family.

10. Meron travelled from Tigray to Addis Ababa in mid-February 2021. She stayed at our auntie's house with our cousins. I had lived on my own in Addis Ababa but in late 2021, shortly before Meron left Ethiopia, I moved in with our uncle, Hailu Berhe. I did not live with Meron at any point when she was in Addis Ababa but I was able to see her. I was very happy to see my sister again, but life was hard because of the way Tigrayans were being treated by the Federal government. All Ethiopians are forced to carry ID and present it when asked to by the authorities, and Tigrayans were often specifically targeted for random checks. Being identified as Tigrayan put you at risk of violence from the state and the police would sometimes detain Tigrayans for no reason. Landlords were supposed to tell the police if their property was occupied by Tigrayans. The security forces used this information to target Tigrayans and put them in detention centres.

11. Meron did not have an ID card issued from Addis Ababa. Her ID card was issued in Tigray. This meant she was easily identified as a Tigrayan, and at risk of detention by the security forces if she was asked to present that ID. The security forces would carry out random stops and searches on the street, and they could demand that any person show their ID at any point. While she was in Addis Ababa, Meron stayed inside a lot, as she did not want to do anything that put herself in further danger. She felt very unsafe and scared; she often talked about how this was no life and she needed to leave Ethiopia and go somewhere safe. Psychologically she was impacted very badly by this; I could see the effect it was having on her. She was scared because of her Tigrayan identity. We also had

Docusign Envelope ID: A9BC8D92-D40E-4A99-8208-BC6B1ECF279A

no contact with our family in Adigrat because during the war there was a communication blackout. This meant phone lines and internet services were down and it was nearly impossible to speak with anyone in Tigray. We had no idea if they were alive or how they were. She was very unhappy, and I think she was suffering from depression and anxiety.

12. During the war, Tigrayans were being laid off from their jobs simply because they were Tigrayan. There was no hope of finding a job in Addis Ababa for any Tigrayan, including me and Meron. Life was very hard. We were only able to survive because my brother, Tesfahun, was working in South Sudan and he was able to send us small amounts of money.

13. Meron was never detained but many of her friends were. In March 2021, our cousin, Ababa Lemlem, who Meron had been living with, was detained for two - three months. She was arrested and detained for no reason. When our cousin was detained, Meron decided she could not stay in Ethiopia any longer, because she feared she would suffer the same fate. There was a lot of sexual violence against women perpetrated by the Federal forces during the conflict and in its aftermath. Meron had friends who had made it to Europe and had told her they were safe there. She decided she needed to flee, and we supported her decision. I pushed her to leave Ethiopia because I was frightened for her safety. She made all the arrangements herself. It took her a while to arrange her travel out of Ethiopia – I believe she may have had help from an agent, but I do not know the details regarding this.

__Journey from Ethiopia to France__

14. Meron managed to obtain a visa to go to Hungary, and took a flight there in October 2021. I believe she used the money my brother sent us while he was working in South Sudan to pay for her flight to Hungary. I did not help her with any of the arrangements for this. I knew she was looking into any way she could leave Ethiopia, and she was very relieved when she finally found a way to do so safely.

15. As far I was aware, when she left Ethiopia, Meron intended to stay and settle in Hungary. She did not initially tell me that she intended to travel to the UK. However, I later learned from Meron that whilst she was in Hungary she spoke with a friend, Name and following this she had decided to travel to the UK. I do not know Name full name and I do not have any contact details for her. I only know this because Meron briefly mentioned it in a voice-note after she had attempted to travel to the UK via lorry (see paragraph 18 below).

16. I spoke to my sister almost every day after she left Ethiopia. She would call me on WhatsApp. I used to have voice-notes from her too, but I deleted them as it was too painful to keep listening to them.

17. Our conversations from that time were never detailed. I think the reason she did not share her plans with me was because she thought I would tell her to stay where she was, and not put herself in further danger by making an unsafe journey. She would call me and tell me what the town she was in looked like, or how the weather was. She would tell me which country she was in; I remember her mentioning Belgium and France but do not remember the names of anywhere else. She never revealed anything troubling. I believe that Tesfahun provided her with some financial support during her journey by sending her some of the money he was earning in South Sudan.

Arrangements for travelling to the UK

18. I began to get the idea that things were not going well for Meron in early November 2021. Meron told me that people were using lorries to travel across Europe, but she did not mention how dangerous it is. After our conversation about lorries, I did not hear from her for three days. This was unusual as we spoke every day and so I was very worried. When she made contact again, she said she had tried to go to the UK by lorry and had been stopped. I think this was around two weeks before she attempted to cross the Channel by boat. I do not recall a lot about this attempt to travel by lorry. She explained it in a voice-note but I no longer have access to these. This was the first time she had mentioned that she was trying to get to the UK. At this point, I started to worry that she was not safe, and that things were worse than she was telling me. I believe she was worried I would tell her to stop.

19. I last spoke to my sister on around 22 or 23 November 2021, in the afternoon.[1] We spoke via voice-note.[2] She told me to take care of myself and asked if I had any news about the family. She mentioned she was worried about our father, who had not been in the best health when she left Tigray. She told me that she was in France, that she was with a friend, and that there was a charity helping them. She said she was with a group of people waiting to get shelter and some supplies. She did not say anything about trying to get to the UK the next day, or the unsafe way she planned to get there. We did not discuss the possibility of her attempting to go to the UK via small boat.

[1] In my 2022 statement, I mentioned that my last contact with Meron was around 1:55 GMT on 23 November 2021. When I provided my previous statement, I still had access to my phone and could review our messages. I have no reason to doubt the accuracy of the time of the voice-note, however I no longer have this phone and am unable to recall the exact details without it.

[2] In my 2022 statement, it was inaccurately recorded that this conversation occurred by phone call, when it was actually conducted via voice-note. I had specified that the conversation took place by telephone but had not clarified the exact type of communication used. I did not realise the error at the time.

Docusign Envelope ID: A9BC8D92-D40E-4A99-8208-BC6B1ECF279A

The aftermath of the incident

20. On 24 November 2021, I saw on BBC news that a small boat carrying migrants had sunk and that some people had died. I had not heard from Meron since we spoke on the afternoon of the 22 November 2021 and I was worried, as we usually spoke almost every day. I tried to call her to check in. When she did not answer my calls, I contacted her friend Name who was living in Belgium, on Facebook; I no longer have contact with Name on Facebook. She told me that Meron had attempted to cross the Channel by boat, and that if she had successfully made it to the UK, she definitely would have been detained in the UK and would not have access to a phone for a while. She told me that migrants get arrested when they try to enter the UK. This was the first I heard that there was a possibility Meron had tried to cross by boat. She told us that it was very normal not to hear from someone who had crossed the Channel for a few days. I spoke with other acquaintances as well to try to find out what was going on, including an Ethiopian school-friend of Meron's called Name I cannot remember exactly what he told me.[3]

21. We have a cousin from my mother's side who lives in the United States. My cousin's name is Name As far as I am aware, she was the first to know that Meron had been on the boat. I think she saw that a boat had sunk and that Meron was one of the victims on social media; I think that is where the news of the incident spread first. I do not know a lot of the details about how she found out about the tragedy. My cousin travelled to France from the United States to identify Meron's body. She then called my uncle, Hailu Berhe, who lives in Addis Ababa and told him. One of my other cousins who lives in Addis Ababa, Name, then called me and said my uncle was sick and I had to go see him. This was not true, but they wanted me to go to his house so he could tell me that Meron was dead. My family wanted to make sure I was told in person, surrounded by family. This was approximately two weeks after I saw the BBC news report. During that time, I had been worried, but I believed she was alive.[4]

22. At this time communication with Tigray was still cut off because of the war, meaning our parents and siblings did not know what had happened to Meron. I was in mourning and needed to find a way to tell them. At the time there were individuals crossing borders for various reasons, including fleeing or going to the border for news of loved ones. I got the

[3] I addressed this in my 2022 statement, but I can no longer clearly recall the exact conversation. At that time, I was speaking with many different individuals, and I am aware that some of these conversations have since blended together in my memory. I primarily remember speaking with Lea. I am unsure if Kukus lives in Belgium, but I do know he is in Europe.

[4] My 2022 statement mentions that I heard from my cousin, who lives in America, that she had flown to France and identified Meron as one of the victims of the sinking. This is accurate—I did discuss this with my cousin—but it is not how I first learned of Meron's death. I only spoke with this cousin after my uncle and other family members informed me at my uncle's house.

information to our parents via a family friend who was travelling into Tigray; I do not recall his name. This was about two weeks after I learned Meron had died, and about four weeks after the incident itself.

23. Due to the conflict in Tigray, we were unable to safely repatriate Meron's body to Tigray as there were limited flights and the region was unsafe. Some charities did try to help us bring her back but they were unable to; I cannot recall their names. We were unable to try to sort this ourselves because we did not have any money and could not afford the expense of repatriation. Because of this Meron had to be buried in France. This is a great source of pain for our family, especially my mother. I have been trying to get a visa for France to visit the grave, but this has so far been refused. To this day, our cousin who identified the body is the only member of our family to have seen the grave. We have only seen photos. My family and I are desperately trying to get her back to Ethiopia. It is our wish that Meron's body can come home, so that she can be with her family, and we can visit her grave. We have made enquiries but it is very expensive, and we cannot afford to have her repatriated without help.

Conclusion

24. Meron was the youngest, but she was the rock of our family. She was the one who kept us all close. The family bond was really based on our love for Meron. We miss her and feel the loss of her every day. It is a great sorrow. We are all so sad and we will never be back to normal following this loss. The mourning period is over but it continues for my family. My parents cry a lot about this. Meron was the youngest child and so they have lost their baby and I do not believe they will ever recover.

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

Signed:

Date:

Name:

Docusign Envelope ID: A9BC8D92-D40E-4A99-8208-BC6B1ECF279A

Habibi Interpreting and Translation LTD
35 Pinner Park Avenue, Harrow, London, HA2 6JY
Email: info@habibi-interpreting.co.uk
Contact: PD 181 / PD 933

የ ሄኖክ ኃይሉ ገብረህይወት ምስክርነት ቃል

I. እኔ ሄኖክ ሃይሉ ገብረህይወት Personal Data አዲስአበባ የተወለድኩ ሲሆን የሚከተለውንም እላለሁ።

1. እኔ የህዳር 2014 ዓም አሳዛኝ ክስተት ሰለባ ከሆኑ ሰዎች መካከል አንዷ የሆነችው ሜሮን ሃይሉ ገብረህይወት ("ሜሮን ") ታላቅ ወንድም ነኝ።

2. ይሄንን ቃል የምሰጠው ለክራንስተን ምርምራ ጠቃሚ መረጃ ለመስጠት እና በምርመራ ላይ ያሉ ክስተቶችን በእኔ እውቀት እና መረዳት ለመግለጽ ነው። በዋነኝነት የምሰጠው መረጃ ከ የካቲት 2013 ዓም አስከ ህዳር 2014 ዓም ድረስ ስለነበሩ ክስተቶች ይሆናል። እኔ የሰጠሁት ቃል ከወንድሜ ተስፋሁን ሃይሉ ገብረህይወት ("ተስፋሁን ") ከሰጠው ቃል ጋር አብሮ ይነበብ ዘንድ አሳስባለሁ።

3. እኔ እዚህ ላይ የሰጠሁት ቃል በሌላ መልኩ እስካልተጠቀሰ ድረስ፣ በኔ መረዳት መጠን ልክ ብቻ መሆኑን እገልፃለሁ ። በ14/15 ህዳር 2014 ዓም የተፈጠሩት ክስተቶች ለእኔ ና ቤተሰቤ እጅግ ከባድ እና ጥልቅ ጠባሳን ጥለው ያለፉ መሆናቸውን መግለጽ እወዳለሁ ። ከጊዜ መርዘም የተነሳ አንዳንድ የረሳሁዋቸው እና በዝርዝር የማላስታውሳቸው ወደ በህዳር 14/15 2014 ዓም ክስተት ያደረሱን እና በዛም የተፈጠሩ ነገሮች መኖራቸውን እገልፃለሁ።

4. ይህ መግለጫ የተዘጋጀው በዱንካን ሉዊስ የሕግ አማካሪዎች የሕግ ወኪሎቼ እርዳታ ነው። በህዳርር 14/15 ቀን 2014 ዓም [INQ000070] ለተፈጠረው ክስተት ጥያቄዎችን ለመጠየቅ ከዚህ ቀደም ከህጋዊ ወኪሌ ጋር በመጋቢት 12 ቀን 2014 ዓም ቃሌን ሰጥቻለሁ። በዚህ መግለጫ ውስጥ በሌላ መልኩ ካልተገለፀ በስተቀር የዚያ መግለጫ ይዘት ትክክል መሆኑን አረጋግጣለሁ።

የኋላ ታሪክ

5. ያደግኩት በትግራይ አዲግራት ከወላጆቼና እህት እና ወንድሞቼ ጋር ነው። ቤተሰቤ አባቴ ኃይሉ ገብረ ሕይወት፣ እናቴ ሊባኖስ በርሄ እና ወንድሞቼ እና እህቶቼ ፅጌረዳ፣ ተስፋሁን፣ ብርሃኔ (በአባታችን በኩል የግማሽ ወንድም እና እህት)፣ ብርቱካን፣ አሸናፊ፣ ደስበለ እና ሜሮን ያቀፈ ሲሆን እኔ ሁለተኛ ታናሽ ስሆን፣ ሜሮን ደግሞ የመጨረሻ ልጅ ነበረች። ስለዚህም እኛ በጣም ቅርብ ነበርን። በ2003 ዓ.ም ከአዲግራት ተነስቼ በአዲስ አበባ ዩኒቨርሲቲ ስፖርት ሳይንስ ተምሬያለሁ። በአሁኑ ጊዜ ሥራ አጥ ነኝ።

6. ሜሮን በጣም ቀጠን ያለች እና ቁመቷ 163 ሴ.ሜ አካባቢ ነበረች። እኔ እንደማውቀው ሜሮን ምንም አይነት የአካል እና የአዕምሮ ጤና ችግር አልደረሰባትም እና ምንም አይነት መድሃኒት አትወስድም ነበር። እኔ እስከማውቀው ሜሮን መዋኘት ተምራለች ብዬ አላምንም።

Docusign Envelope ID: A9BC8D92-D40E-4A99-8208-BC6B1ECF279A

Habibi Interpreting and Translation LTD
35 Pinner Park Avenue, Harrow, London, HA2 6JY
Email: info@habibi-interpreting.co.uk
Contact: PD 181 / PD 933

7. ከኢትዮጵያ ከመውጣቷ በፊት በከፍተኛ ጭንቀት ውስጥ እንደነበረች አውቃለሁ። ትግራይ ውስጥ በመሆኗ ብዙ ፍርሃት ይሰማት ነበር ፤ ስለ ቤተሰባችንም በጣም ትጨነቅ ነበር። ጦርነቱ በትግራይ ለነበሩት ቤተሰቦቼ አስፈሪ እና አስቸጋሪ ጊዜ እንደነበር አውቃለሁ። ሜሮን በአጠቃላይ ስለ አእምሮ ጤንነቷ ምንም ባትነግረኝም ከትግራይ ጦርነት ለመሸሽግ አዲግራት ከሚገኘው ቤታችን ሸሽታ በመሯሯጧ ብዙ ስቃይ ደርሶባታል።

8. ግጭቱ ሲነሳ እኔ ትግራይ ውስጥ አልነበርኩም። በ2003 ወደ ዩኒቨርስቲ ስገባ በኖርኩበት አዲስ አበባ ነበር የምኖረው። ከግጭቱ በፊት የግል ሥራ እየሰራሁ ነበር ፤ የጅምላ ንግድ ስራ። ግጭቱ ሲነሳ ከነበሩት ወንድሞቼ እና እህቶቼ መካከል እኔ ብቻ ነበርኩ አዲስ አበባ ውስጥ የነበርኩት ፤ የቀሩት ቤተሰቦቼ ትግራይ ውስጥ ነበሩ። እ.ኤ.አ. በ2014 መጀመሪያ ላይ ወደ አዲስ አበባ ከመጡት ሜሮን እና ተስፋሁን በስተቀር፣ ግጭቱ ከተቀሰቀሰበት ጊዜ ጀምሮ የፕሪቶሪያ ስምምነት በህዳር ወር 2015 እስከተፈረመበት እና ከመቀሌ እስከ አዲስ አበባ የሚወስዱት መንገዶች ሙሉ በሙሉ እስኪከፈቱበት ጊዜ ድረስ ሌሎቹን የቤተሰቦቼን አባላት አላገኘሁም።

9. ወንድሜ ተስፋሁን በ2014 መጀመሪያ ላይ አዲስ አበባ መጣ። እሱ ሚስቱንና ልጁን አድሪጋት ውስጥ ጥሎ ብቻውን ነው የመጣው። አዲስ አበባ ውስጥ ለጥቂት ሳምንታት ብቻ ነበር ከአጎታችን ዘሬስናይ ጋር ቆየው። ከዚያም በየካቲት 2013 መጀመሪያ ላይ ከኢትዮጵያ ተነስቶ ሥራ ፍለጋ እና ቤተሰቡን ለመርዳት ወደ ደቡብ ሱዳን ሄደ።

10. ሜሮን በየካቲት ወር አጋማሽ 2013 ላይ ከትግራይ ወደ አዲስ አበባ ተጓዘች። ከአክስቶቻችን ልጆች ጋር በአክስታችን ቤት ቆየች። እኔ ብቻዬን አዲስ አበባ ነበር የኖርኩት ግን በ2013 መጨረሻ ላይ ሜሮን ከኢትዮጵያ ከመውጣቷ ትንሽ ቀደም ብሎ ከአጎታችን ኃይሉ በርሄ ጋር መኖር ጀመርኩ። ሜሮን አዲስ አበባ በነበረችበት ወቅት በአንድም ጊዜ አብሬያት አልኖርኩም ነገር ግን እሷን ለማየት ችያለሁ። እህቴን ዳግመኛ ሳገኝ በጣም ደስ ብሎኝ ነበር ነገር ግን ለትግራይ ተወላጆች በፌደራል መንግስት አያያዝ ምክንያት ህይወት ከባድ ነበር። ሁሉም ኢትዮጵያውያን መታወቂያ እንዲይዙ እና ከባለስልጣናት ሲጠየቁ እንዲያቀርቡ ይገደዳሉ፣ እና የትግራይ ተወላጆች ላይ በተለይ የዘፈቀደ ፍተሻ ይደረግ ነበር። ትግራዋይ መሆኖ መታወቅ ከመንግስት ጥቃት ሊያደርስብህ ይችላል እና ፖሊስ አንዳንድ ጊዜ ትግራውያንን ያለምክንያት ያስራል። አከራዮች ንብረታቸውን የትግራይ ተወላጆች ከተከራዩ ለፖሊስ መንገር ነበረባቸው። የጸጥታ ሃይሎች ይህንን መረጃ በመጥቀም የትግራይ ተወላጆች ላይ በማነጣጠር ወደ እስር ቤት እንዲገቡ አድርገዋል።

11. ሜሮን ከአዲስ አበባ የተሰጠ መታወቂያ ካርድ አልነበራትም። መታወቂያዋ በትግራይ ውስጥ የተሰጣት ነው። ይህ ማለት በቀላሉ ትግራዋይ መሆኗ ይታወቃል እናም መታወቂያዋን እንድታቀርብ ከተጠየቀች በጸጥታ ሃይሎች ታስራለች። የጸጥታ ሃይሎች በመንገድ ላይ በዘፈቀደ ፌርማታ እና ፍተሻ ያካሂዳሉ፣ እናም ማንኛውም ሰው በማንኛውም ጊዜ መታወቂያውን እንዲያሳይ ሊጠይቁ ይችላሉ። አዲስ አበባ እያለች ሜሮን ራሷን የበለጠ አደጋ ላይ የሚጥል ነገር ማድረግ ስላልፈለገች ብዙ ጊዜ ቤት ውስጥ ትሆን ነበር። እሷ በጣም ፍርሃት ይሰማት ነበር ፤ ብዙ ጊዜ እንደዚ አይነት ሕይወት እንዴት ህይወት እንዳልሆነ ትናገር ነበር እና ከኢትዮጵያ ወጥታ ሰላማዊ ወደሆነ ቦታ መሄድ ትፈልግ ነበር። ስነ-ልቦናዋ በዚህ በጣም ተጎድቶ ነበር; በእሷ ላይ እያደረ የነበረውን ተጽዕኖ አይቻለሁ። በትግራይ ማንነቷ ምክንያት ፈራች። ከአዲግራት ቤተሰቦቻችን ጋር ምንም አይነት ግንኙነት አልነበረንም ምክንያቱም በጦርነቱ ወቅት ግንኙነት መቋረጥ ነበር። ይህ ማለት የስልክ መስመሮች እና የኢንተርኔት አገልግሎቶች ተቋርጠዋል እና

Docusign Envelope ID: A9BC8D92-D40E-4A99-8208-BC6B1ECF279A

Habibi Interpreting and Translation LTD
35 Pinner Park Avenue, Harrow, London, HA2 6JY
Email: info@habibi-interpreting.co.uk
Contact: PD 181 / PD 933

ከትግራይ ውስጥ ከማንም ጋር መነጋገር የማይቻል ነበር ማለት ይቻላል። በህይወት እንዳሉም ሆነ እንዴት እንደነበሩ አናውቅም ነበር።

12. በጦርነቱ ወቅት የትግራይ ተወላጆች ትግራዋይ በመሆናቸው ብቻ ከስራ እየተባረሩ ነበር። እኔ እና ሜሮን ጨምሮ ለማንኛውም ትግራዋይ አዲስ አበባ ውስጥ ስራ የማግኘት ተስፋ አልነበረም። ሕይወት በጣም ከባድ ነበር። ለመትረፍ የቻልነው ወንድሜ ተስፋሁን ደቡብ ሱዳን ውስጥ ይሰራ ስለነበር ትንሽ ገንዘብ ሊልክልን ስለቻለ ብቻ ነው።

13. ሜሮን በጭራሽ አልታሰረችም ነገር ግን ብዙ ጓደኞቿ ታስረው ነበር። በመጋቢት 2014 ዓም ሜሮን አብራት ትኖር የነበረችው የአጎታችን ልጅ አበባ ለምለም ከሁለት እስከ ሶስት ወር ታስራለች። ያለምክንያት ተይዛ ታስራ ነበር። የአጎታችን ልጅ ስትታሰር ሜሮን ከዚህ በኋላ ኢትዮጵያ ውስጥ ብዙ መቆየት እንደሌለባት ወሰነች ምክንያቱም ተመሳሳይ እጣ ፈንታ እንዳይደርስባት ፈርታ ነበር። በግጭቱ ወቅት በፌደራል ሃይሎች በሴቶች ላይ የሚፈፀሙ የፆታ ጥቃቶች ብዙ ነበሩ። ሜሮን ወደ አውሮፓ የሄዱ ጓደኞች ነበሯት እና እዚያ በሰላም እየኖሩ እንደሆኑ የነገሩዋት። እሷም ወደነሱ መሄድ እንዳለባት ወሰነች እና እኛም ውሳኔዋን ደገፍን። ለደህንነቷ ፈርቼ ከኢትዮጵያ እንድትወጣ ገፋፍቻት ነበር። እሷ ራሷ ነበረች ሁሉንም ዝግጅት ያደረገችው። ከኢትዮጵያ ለመውጣት የምታደርገውን ጉዞ ለማዘጋጀት ትንሽ ጊዜ ወስዳባታል፣ ከተወካይ እርዳታ አግኝታ ሊሆን ይችላል ብዬ አምናለሁ፣ ይህን በተመለከተ ግን ዝርዝሩን አላውቅም።

ከኢትዮጵያ ወደ ፈረንሳይ ጉዞ

14. ሜሮን ወደ ሃንጋሪ ለመሄድ ቪዛ አግኝታ በጥቅምት ወር 2014 ዓም በረረች። ወንድሜ በደቡብ ሱዳን እየሰራ እያለ የላከልንን ገንዘብ ወደ ሃንጋሪ በረራዋን ለመክፈል ተጠቅማለች ብዬ አምናለሁ። ለዚህ ነገር መሳካት ምንም አይነት እርዳታ አልሰጠኋትም ነበር። ከኢትዮጵያ መውጣት የምትችልበትን ማንኛውንም መንገድ ስትፈልግ እንደነበረ አውቃለሁ እና በመጨረሻ በሰላም የምትወጣበትን መንገድ ስታገኝ በጣም ሰላም ተሰምቷት ነበር።

15. እኔ እስከማውቀው ድረስ ሜሮን ከኢትዮጵያ ስትወጣ በሃንጋሪ ለመቆየት አስባ ነበር። ሜሮን መጀመሪያ ላይ ወደ እንግሊዝ ለመጓዝ እንዳሰበች አልነገረችኝም ነበር ። ሆኖም ከሜሮን በኋላ እንደተረዳሁት በሃንጋሪ በነበረችበት ጊዜ ከጓደኛ Personal Data ጋር እንደተነጋገረች እና ይህን ተከትሎ ወደ እንግሊዝ ለመጓዝ እንደወሰነች አወኩ። Personal Data ሙሉ ስም አላውቅም እና የእሷ ምንም አይነት አድራሻ የለኝም። ይህን የማውቀውም ሜሮን በመኪና ወደ እንግሊዝ ለመጓዝ ከሞከረች በኋላ በትንሹ በድምፅ መልዕክት ላይ ስለጠቀሰችልኝ ነው (ከታች አንቀጽ 18 ይመልከቱ)።

16. እህቴን ከኢትዮጵያ ከወጣች በኋላ በየቀኑ ማለት በሚቻል ሁኔታ አናግራት ነበር። በዋትስአፕ ትደውልልኝ ነበር። ከእሷ የድምጽ መልእክቶች ነበሩኝ።፣ ነገር ግን እነሱን ደጋግሞ ማዳመጥ በጣም የሚያም ነገር ስለነበር ሁሉንም አጠፋኋቸው።

Habibi
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 181 / PD 933

17. ከዚያን ጊዜ ጀምሮ ያደረግናቸው ንግግሮች በዝርዝር አልነበሩም። እቅዷን ለእኔ ያላካፈለችበት ምክንያት ባለችበት እንድትቆይ እነግራታለሁ ብላ በማሰብ እና አስተማማኝ ያልሆነ ጉዞ በማድረግ እራሷን ለተጨማሪ አደጋ እንዳትዳርግ ስለምነግራት ይመስለኛል። ትደውልልኝና ያለችበት ከተማ ምን እንደሚመስል ወይም የአየር ሁኔታው እንዴት እንደሆነ ትነግረኝ ነበር። የት ሀገር እንዳለች ትነግረኝ ነበር; ቤልጂየም እና ፈረንሳይን ስትጠቅስ ትዝ ይለኛል ነገርግን የሌላ ቦታን ስም አላስታውስም። ምንም የሚያስጨንቅ ነገር ገልጻ አታውቅም። እንደሚመስለኝ ተስፋሁን በጉዞዋ ወቅት በደቡብ ሱዳን እያገኘው ካለው ገቢ የተወሰነ የገንዘብ ድጋፍ እንዳደረገላት አምናለሁ።

ወደ ዩኬ ለመጓዝ ዝግጅት

18. ከ ጥቅምት 2014 ዓም ጀምሮ ነገሮች ለሜሮን ጥሩ እንዳልሆኑ መረዳት ጀመርኩ። ሜሮን አውሮፓ ውስጥ ለመጓጓዝ ሰዎች በጭነት መኪናዎች እየተጠቀሙ እንደሆነ ነገረችኝ፣ ነገር ግን ምን ያህል አደገኛ እንደሆነ አልተናገረችም። ስለ ጭነት መኪናዎች ዝውውር ከተነጋገርን በኋላ፣ ለሦስት ቀናት ያህል ከእሷ ሳላገኛት ቀረሁ። በየቀኑ ስንነጋገር ስለነበር ይህ ያልተለመደ ነበር እናም በጣም ተጨንቄ ነበር። በድጋሚ ስንገናኝ በ ጭነት መኪና ወደ እንግሊዝ ለመሄድ እንደሞከረች እና እንዳስቆሟት ነገረችኝ። ይህ የሆነው የመተላለፊያ መስመሩን በጀልባ ለመሻገር ከመሞከሯ ከሁለት ሳምንት በፊት አካባቢ ይመስለኛል። በጭነት መኪና ለመጓዝ ስለተደረገው ሙከራ ብዙ አላስታውስም። በድምፅ መልዕክት ነበር የነገረችኝ፣ ነገር ግን በአሁን ሰዐት እሱን ማግኘት አልችልም። ወደ እንግሊዝ ለመግባት እየሞከረች እንደሆነ ስትናገር ይህ የመጀመሪያዋ ነበር። በዚህ ጊዜ ነበር፣ እሷ ደህና እንዳልሆነች፣ እና ነገሮች ከምትነግረኝ የባሰ ነው ብዬ መጨነቅ የጀመርኩት። እንድታቆም እንዳልነግራት ተጨንቃለች ብዬ አምናለሁ።

19. ለመጨረሻ ጊዜ ከእህቴን ጋር የተነጋገርኩት በ13 ወይም 14 ህዳር 2014 ዓም አካባቢ፣ ከሰአት ላይ ነው። በድምፅ መልዕክት ነበር የተናገርነው። ራሴን እንድጠብቅ ነገረችኝ እና ስለቤተሰቡ ምን ዜና እንዳለኝ ጠየቀችኝ። ትግራይን ለቃ ስትወጣ ጥሩ ጤንነት ላይ ያልነበረው አባታችን ጉዳይ እንዳሳሰባት ነግራኝ ነበር። ፈረንሳይ ውስጥ እንዳለች፣ ከጓደኛዋ ጋር እንደምትገኝ እና የሚረዳቸው በጎ አድራጎት ድርጅት እንዳለ ነገረችኝ። እሷ መጠለያ እና አንዳንድ ዕቃዎችን ለማግኘት ከሚጠባበቁ ሰዎች ጋር በጋራ እንደምትገኝ ነግራኝ ነበር። በማግሥቱ ወደ ዩናይትድ ኪንግደም ለመሄድ ስለሞከረች ወይም እዚያ ለመድረስ ስላቀደችው አስተማማኝ ስላሎነ መንገድ ምንም አልተናገረችም። በትንሽ ጀልባ ወደ እንግሊዝ ለመሄድ እንደምትሞክር ምንም አይነት መረጃ አልሰጠችኝም ነበር።

የግርጌ ማስታወሻ

1. በ 2014 ዓም በሰጡሁት ቃል ከሜሮን ጋር ለመጨረሻ ጊዜ የተገናኘሁት ህዳር 14 ቀን 2014 ዓም በ 1፡55 'GMT' አካባቢ እንደነበር ገልጫለሁ። የቀድሞውን ቃሌን ሳቀርብ በሰዓቱ ስልኬን ማግኘት እችል ነበር እና መልእክቶቻችንን

Docusign Envelope ID: A9BC8D92-D40E-4A99-8208-BC6B1ECF279A

Habibi Interpreting and Translation LTD
35 Pinner Park Avenue, Harrow, London, HA2 6JY
Email: info@habibi-interpreting.co.uk
Contact: PD 181 / PD 933

ማየት እችል ነበር። እናም የድምጽ- ማስታወሻውን ጊዜ ትክክለኛነት ለመጠራጠር ምንም ምክንያት የለኝም፣ ነገር ግን አሁን ላይ ይህ ስልክ የለኝም እና ያለ እሱ ትክክለኛ ዝርዝሮችን ማስታወስ አልችልም።

2. በ2014 ዓም መግለጫዬ ላይ፣ በስህተት ንግግሩ የተካሄደው በስልክ ጥሪ ነው ተብሎ ተመዝግቧል፣ እውነታው ግን በድምፅ-ማስታወሻ የተካሄደ ንግግር ነበር። በሰዓቱ ውይይቱ የተካሄደው በስልክ እንደሆነ ገልጬ ነበር፣ ነገርግን የተነጋገርንበትን መንገድ ትክክለኛ አይነት አላብራራሁም ነበር። በወቅቱ ስህተቱን አላስተዋልኩም ነበር።

3. ይህንን በ2014 ዓም መግለጫዬ ላይ ተናግሬ ነበር፣ ነገር ግን ትክክለኛውን የተነጋገርነውን ነገር አሁን ሙሉበሙሉ ማስታወስ አልችልም። በዚያን ጊዜ፣ ከተለያዩ ግለሰቦች ጋር እየተነጋገርኩ ነበር፣ እና ከእነዚህ ንግግሮች መካከል አንዳንዶቹ በአእምሮዬ ውስጥ የተቀላቀሉ እንደሆኑ አውቃለሁ። በዋናነት ከሊያ ጋር መነጋገራችንን አስታውሳለሁ። ቅዱስ በቤልጂየም መኖር አለመኖሩን እርግጠኛ አይደለሁም፣ ግን አውሮፓ ውስጥ እንዳለ አውቃለሁ።

4. የ2014 ዓም መግለጫዬ ወደ ፈረንሳይ በአውሮፕላን በመሄድ ሜሮን የመስጠሙ አደጋ ሰለባዎች አንዷ እንደሆነች ካረጋገጠችው አሜሪካ ከምትኖረው የአጎቴ ልጅ የተፈጠረውን እንደሰማሁ ይጠቅሳል። ይህ ትክክል ነው፣ ይህንን ከአጎቴ ልጅ ጋር ተነጋግሬያለሁ። ነገር ግን የሜሮንን ሞት ለመጀመሪያ ጊዜ የሰማሁት ከሷ አይደለም። ከዚህች የአጎቴ ልጅ ጋር የተነጋገርኩት አጎቴ እና ሌሎች የቤተሰብ አባላት በአጎቴ ቤት ካሳወቁኝ በኋላ ነው።

ከተፈጠረው ክስተት በኋላ

20. ህዳር 15, 2014 ዓም ስደተኞችን የጫነች ትንሽ ጀልባ መስጠሟን እና የተወሰኑ ሰዎች መሞታቸውን በቢቢሲ ዜና አየሁ።

ህዳር 13 ቀን 2014 ዓም ከሰአት በኋላ ከተነጋገርንበት ጊዜ ጀምሮ ከሜሮን ምንም አልሰማሁም ነበር እናም ተጨንቄ ነበር ፣ ምክንያቱም ብዙ ጊዜ በየቀኑ ማለት በሚቻል ሁኔታ እናወራ ስለነበር ነው። ደህንነቷን ለማረጋገጥ ብደውልም ስልኬን ሳትመልስልኝ ስትቀር በፌስቡክ ቤልጅየም የምትኖረውን ጓደኛዋን Personal Data አገኘኋት፤ በአሁኑ ሰዐት Personal Data ጋር

በፌስቡክ ግንኙነት የለኝም። Personal Data ስደተኞች ወደ እንግሊዝ ለመግባት ሲሞክሩ እንደሚታሰሩ፣ እናም

ሜሮን የመተላለፊያ መስመሩን በጀልባ ለመሻገር እንደሞከረች እና በተሳካ ሁኔታ ወደ እንግሊዝ ብትደርስ በእርግጠኝነት እንግሊዝ ውስጥ እንደምትታሰር እና ለተወሰነ ጊዜ ስልክ እንደማታገኝ ነገረችኝ። ሜሮን በጀልባ ለመሻገር እንደሞከረች ለመጀመሪያ ጊዜ የሰማሁት በዚህ ስዓት ነው Personal Data ለጥቂት ቀናት የመተላለፊያ መስመሩን ከተሻገረ ሰው አለመስማት በጣም የተለመደ እንደሆነ ነገረችን። ምን እንደተፈጠረ ለመረዳት ኢትዮጵያዊው የሜሮን

Docusign Envelope ID: A9BC8D92-D40E-4A99-8208-BC6B1ECF279A

Habibi Interpreting and Translation LTD
35 Pinner Park Avenue, Harrow, London, HA2 6JY
Email: info@habibi-interpreting.co.uk
Contact: PD 181 / PD 933

ትምህርት ቤት ጓደኛ የሆነውን Personal Data ጨምሮ ሌሎች ከማውቃቸው ሰዎች ጋር ተነጋገርኩ Personal Data የነገረኝን በትክክል ማስታወስ አልችልም።

21. በዩናይትድ ስቴትስ ውስጥ የምትኖር ከእናቴ ወገን የሆነች የአጎት ልጅ አለን። የአጎቴ ልጅ ስ Personal Data ይባላል። እኔ እስከማውቀው ድረስ ሜሮን በጀልባው ላይ እንደነበረች መጀመሪያ ያወቀችው እሷ ነበረች። ጀልባ መስጠሟን እና ሜሮን ጀልባ ውስጥ ከነበሩት ውስጥ አንዷ እንደሆነች በማህበራዊ ሚዲያ ያየች ይመስለኛል። የክስተቱ ዜና መጀመሪያ የተሰራጨው እዚያ ነበር። ስለአደጋው እንዴት እንዳወቀች ብዙ ዝርዝሮችን አላውቅም። የአጎቴ ልጅ የሜሮን አስከሬን ለመለየት ከአሜሪካ ወደ ፈረንሳይ ተጓዘች። ከዚያም አዲስ አበባ ለሚኖረው አጎቴ ኃይሉ በርሄ ደውላ ነገረችው። እኔን አንዱ አዲስ አበባ ከሚኖረው የአጎቴ ልጅ Personal Data ደውሎልኝ አጎቴ ስለታመመ ሄጄ መጠየቅ እንዳለብኝ ነገረኝ። ይህ እውነት አልነበረም ነገር ግን ሜሮን ሞታለች ብሎ ሊነግረኝ ወደ ቤቱ እንድሄድ ስፈለጉ ነው። ቤተሰቦቼ መርዶውን በአካል እንዲሁም፣ በቤተሰብ ተከብቤ መሆኑን ማረጋገጥ ስፈለጉ ነው። ይህ የሆነው የቢቢሲን የዜና ዘገባ ካየሁ ከሁለት ሳምንታት በኋላ ነበር። በዛን ጊዜ ተጨንቄ ነበር ነገር ግን በህይወት እንዳለች አምን ነበር።

22. በዚህ ጊዜ በጦርነቱ ምክንያት ከትግራይ ጋር ያለው ግንኙነት ሙሉበሙሉ ተቋርጦ ነበር፣ ያ ማለት ወላጆቻችን እያንዲሁም እህት እና ወንድሞቼ በሜሮን ላይ ምን እንደተፈጠረ አላወቁም ነበር። በሐዘን ውስጥ ስለነበርኩ እና ለእነሱ የምነግርበትን መንገድ መፈለግ ነበረብኝ። በወቅቱ በተለያዩ ምክንያቶች ድንበር አቋርጠው የሚሄዱ ግለሰቦች ነበሩ፤ ከእነዚህም መካከል ከዚህ ለመውጣት ወይም ስለሚወዷቸው ሰዎች ዜና ለመስማት የሚሄዱ ነበሩ። መረጃውን ለወላጆቻችን ስሙን ባላስታውስም ወደ ትግራይ በሚጓዝ አንድ የቤተሰብ ጓደኛዬ በኩል ነገርኳቸው። ይህ የሆነው ሜሮን እንደሞተች እኔ ከተረዳሁ ከሁለት ሳምንት በኋላ ነው፣ እና ክስተቱ እራሱ ካለፈ ደግሞ ከአራት ሳምንታት በኋላ ነበር።

23. በትግራይ በነበረው ግጭት ምክንያት፣ በረራዎችም ውስን ስለነበሩ እና ክልሉ ደህንነቱ ያልተጠበቀ ስለነበር የሜሮንን አስከሬን ወደ ትግራይ ልንመልሰው አልቻልንም ነበር። አንዳንድ አሁን ስማቸውን ላስታውስ ያልቻልኳቸው የበጎ አድራጎት ድርጅቶች እሷን እንድንመልስ ሊረዱን ቢሞክሩም አልቻሉም። ምንም ገንዘብ ስለሌለን እና ወደ ሀገር ቤት ለመመለስ የሚያስፈልገውን ወጪ መክፈል ስላልቻልን በ'ራሳችን ይሄን ጉዳይ ለመፍታት መሞከር አልቻልንም። በዚህ ምክንያት ሜሮን በፈረንሳይ መቀበር ነበረባት። ይህ ለቤተሰባችን በተለይም ለእናቴ ትልቅ ሀዘን ፈጥሯል። ፈረንሣይ መቃብሩን ለመጎብኘት ቪዛ ለማግኘት እየሞከርኩ ነበር ፣ ግን ይህ እስካሁን ተቀባይነት አላገኘም። ከቤተሰባችን መሀል እስካሁን ድረስ አስከሬኑን አይታ የለየችው የአጎታችን ልጅ ብቻ ናት የመቃብር ቦታውን ያየችው። ሌሎቻችን ፎቶዎችን ብቻ ነው ያየነው። እኔና ቤተሰቤ እሷን ወደ ኢትዮጵያ ልንመልሳት በጣም እየጣርን ነው። ምኞታችን የሜሮን አስከሬን ወደ ሀገሯ ተመልሶ ፣ከቤተሰቦቿ ጋር እንድትሆን እና መቃብሯን እንድንጎበኝ ነው። ብዙ ጊዜ ጠይቀን ነበር፣ ነገር ግን በጣም ውድ ስለሆነብን እሷን ያለእርዳታ ወደ ሀገር እንድትመለስ ማድረግ አንችልም።

ማጠቃለያ

Docusign Envelope ID: A9BC8D92-D40E-4A99-8208-BC6B1ECF279A

Habibi Interpreting and Translation LTD
35 Pinner Park Avenue, Harrow, London, HA2 6JY
Email: info@habibi-interpreting.co.uk
Contact: PD 181 / PD 933

24. ሜሮን ከቤተሰቡ ታናሽ ነበረች ግን እሷ የቤተሰባችን አለት ነበረች። ሁላችንንም እንድንቀራረብ ያደረገችን እሷ ነበረች። በእውነቱ ከሆነ የቤተሰባችን ትስስር ለሜሮን ባለን ፍቅር ላይ የተመሰረተ ነበር። ሁላችንም እሷን እናፍቃታለን እናም በየቀኑ እርሷን ማጣታችን ይሰማናል። ለእኛ ትልቅ ሀዘን ነው። ሁላችንም በጣም አዝነናል፣ እናም ይህንን ሀዘን ተከትሎ ከዚህ በኋላ ወደ መደበኛ ሁኔታችን መመለስ አንችልም። የሀዘኑ ጊዜ አብቅቷል ነገር ግን ለቤተሰቦቼ አሁንም እንደቀጠለ ነው። ወላጆቼ በዚህ ጉዳይ ሁሌም ያለቅሳሉ። ሜሮን የመጨረሻዋ ልጅ ነበረች፣ ልጃቸውን አጥተዋል እና መቼም ያገግማሉ ብዬ አላምንም።

የእምነት ቃል

በዚህ የምስክሮች ቃል ላይ የተገለጹት ነገሮች እውነት ናቸው ብዬ አምናለሁ። በእውነት ላይ ሳይመሰረት የእምነት ቃል ላይ የውሸት ቃል በሚሰጥ ወይም እንዲሰጥ ባደረገ ማንኛውም ሰው ላይ የፍርድ ቤት ንቀት ክስ ሊቀርብ እንደሚችል ተረድቻለሁ።

ፊርማ Personal Data

ቀን 8/11/2024 | 11:51:44 GMT

ስም HENOK HAILU GEBREHIWOT

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