
WITNESS STATEMENT OF NOORI MOHAMMEDAMEEN HASSAN

I, Noori Mohammedameen Hassan, father of Maryam Noori Mohammedameen, of [PD] Iraqi Kurdistan, will say as follows:

1. I am the father of one of the victims of the November 2021 tragedy, Maryam Noori Mohammedameen ("**Maryam**"). I have provided this information in consultation with my wife, Zardiya Mohammed Khader. I am a designated full participant to the Cranston Inquiry and I prepared this statement with the assistance of Duncan Lewis Solicitors.
2. I make this statement in order to provide relevant information, based on my knowledge and understanding of the circumstances leading up to and during the events under scrutiny. I acknowledge that the information that I received from my daughter during her journey may not always have been complete and/or accurate. I further wish to state that the events of 23/24 November 2021 were traumatic and difficult for my family and me. The passage of nearly three years may have impacted my ability to recall all events and conversations fully and/or accurately.
3. The matters set out in this statement are within my knowledge unless otherwise stated.

Background

4. I was born on [PD] in Uzbekistan, after my father left Iraqi Kurdistan as a refugee some years earlier. I then returned to Iraqi Kurdistan on 14 June 1959, when it was safe to do so, with my father, mother and three brothers.
5. I live in [PD] Kurdistan, Iraq. I am a retired Peshmerga, having worked in the Kurdish military forces from the age of 14. I retired in 2009, but I still very much consider myself a Peshmerga.
6. I live with my wife, Zardiya Mohammed Khader. We have six children together - five daughters and one son - including Maryam (born 21 March 1997). My son, Mohammed Noori Mohammed Ameen [PD] still lives with me and my wife. Our five daughters have now moved away from home, and all have their own families. They are Amina [PD], Paylan (born in [PD]), Tewan ([PD]) and Helen ([PD]).

Maryam Noori Mohammedameen

7. Maryam was born on 21 March 1997. She was 24 years old when she left Kurdistan. Maryam was average build and height, at around 1.60m tall. Maryam was active and healthy - she exercised often and had no health issues.
8. Maryam was incredibly kind and used to take care of everyone. She was a very good girl and everyone from our family would agree with this. She was remarkably caring towards her mother, and looked after her in any way that she could. Maryam also had a great relationship with her siblings and was very much loved by the whole family. She was such a loveable person.
9. Maryam was smart and completed her high school education. After this, when she was between 19 and 20 years old, Maryam applied for a place at university but unfortunately was unsuccessful. She wanted to study engineering and was upset at not being accepted on to the course. In the years after this, Maryam started to feel like she had no opportunities here in Kurdistan.
10. After finishing school, Maryam spent much of her time with her mother. She would help around the house in any way that she could. Maryam also loved spending time with her cousins - they would visit each other all the time and enjoyed hanging out together.

Maryam's engagement & journey to France

11. In 2021, Maryam met and then got engaged to her fiancé, Karzan Asad ("**Karzan**"), although I do not recall the exact date of their engagement. Our family knows Karzan's family because his sister is married to my nephew, but he and Maryam had not met before 2021. Karzan was back in Erbil visiting family when they met. He is from here originally, but moved to the UK some years ago and is now a British citizen. I am not sure exactly when he gained this status.
12. After their engagement, Maryam planned to travel to the UK so she could live with Karzan. She wanted to start a new life with him and build a family there. I believe that after an initial attempt to obtain a visa was unsuccessful, Maryam decided to leave Kurdistan on her own and attempt to travel to the UK to be with her fiancé. Despite being sad that she was leaving, I completely understood my daughter's decision to leave Erbil. She had a fiancé in the UK and wanted to build a life with him. I was happy for Maryam.
13. On 01 November 2021, Maryam flew from Erbil to Italy on a visa, using her Iraqi passport. I do not remember which Italian city she flew to. After arriving in Italy, I believe she travelled by car to Germany – a journey which I understand she arranged herself.
14. I do not know where exactly she travelled to in Germany, but I know that when she arrived, she

stayed in a hotel for about 12 days. While she was in the hotel, Maryam met a woman called Mhabad Ahmad Ali ("**Mhabad**"), who was also a victim of the incident in November 2021. I do not think Maryam knew Mhabad prior to meeting her in Germany. Maryam told us that Mhabad had a husband waiting for her in the UK.

15. From Germany, Maryam and Mhabad arranged to travel by car to Northern France. I believe they arrived at the French coast on around 17 or 18 November 2021.
16. We were in regular contact with Maryam throughout her journey from Kurdistan to France. We spoke on an almost daily basis through video calls via Snapchat. She would tell us what she was doing and how she was feeling. Generally, she said that she was doing well, and that her accommodation was good. She never complained when we spoke.
17. After arriving on the French coast, I think that Maryam and Mhabad stayed in a hotel for around five to six nights. Our family was in contact with Maryam every day and night. She spoke to me, as well as her mother, sisters, and brothers. During these calls Maryam told us that she and Mhabad were looking after each other and that everything was fine.
18. We told Maryam over the phone that we wanted her to use any means of reaching the UK apart from a small boat. She never mentioned during this period that she had plans to reach the UK in a dinghy, and so we were hopeful that she would use safer means.
19. However, around one and a half days before taking her final journey, Maryam completely stopped communicating with us. The last time I spoke to her was on 22 November 2021. In this conversation I asked her again to be patient, and to wait until she could find a way of reaching the UK that was safer than crossing the Channel by small boat.
20. When I then tried to call Maryam later on 22 November and then 23 November 2021, her phone was switched off and we were unable to speak with her. Looking back, I think that she may have switched her phone off because she had made up her mind, and decided that she would attempt to cross the Channel by boat. I think she probably wanted to avoid telling us about her decision, as she knew it would make us worry and she did not want us to be afraid.
21. I later found out after the incident that Maryam had spoken to her cousin, Avin Saed Khorshid ("**Avin**"), who lives in Kurdistan, on 23 November 2021. My understanding is that they had a phone call and Maryam told Avin, *'I will be in the UK tomorrow'*. The rest of our family was not aware of this at the time, but Avin told my wife, Zardiya, about the call when people gathered at our house after Maryam was named as a victim.

Aftermath of the night of 23 November 2021

22. As we had not heard from Maryam since 22 November 2021, we had no idea that she had attempted to cross the Channel. Then on 24 November 2021, we saw in the news that a boat had sunk while attempting to reach the UK. We saw this on local TV, international news, and on the internet. In the days after this tragedy, Maryam was then named as a victim on the news. This was the darkest moment of my life, and the saddest day of all our lives. It is difficult to describe how hard it was, firstly hearing the news, but then also not being there, where it had happened. At that point, I thought we would never see her body again, which made the experience even more painful.
23. We then started a memorial service for Maryam at our house. After announcing that we were holding the memorial, people started coming from all over to see us. Each day, over 100 people would come and express their sympathy and condolences. Everyone was incredibly shocked at what happened and they could not understand why the boat was not rescued. During that period, we also had various media outlets, both foreign and Kurdish, reaching out and speaking to us. I think that Maryam was the first victim to be named, and I remember her being mentioned in news interviews as well as foreign newspapers. In a way, it was like Maryam became an icon of the tragedy.
24. A couple of days after the tragedy, a friend of mine, Ismael Hamad Khudur ("**Ismael**"), attended our memorial service. He lives locally in our neighbourhood so I have known him for a long time. Ismael told me about his son, Muslim Ismael Hamad ("**Muslim**"), who he had not heard from since the tragedy. He thought that Muslim could have been on the same boat as Maryam, and was asking me, *'what should I do?'*
25. Our memorial service lasted from soon after the incident until we eventually received her body and held a funeral. I think this was around late December 2021.

Impact on our family

26. Nothing is worse than losing a loved one, especially one's child. It is a huge loss. I do not know what I can really say about this or how I can explain it. The tragedy in 2021 has had an enormous impact on our family.
27. Since losing Maryam, my wife has suffered very badly with mental health issues, and she has also started suffering from epilepsy. We cannot leave her alone, and either I or my son, Mohammed Noori Mohammed Ameen, must be around to look after her. As soon as my wife heard the news about Maryam being named as a victim, she passed out because of the shock and we had to take her to hospital. It is now three years later and my wife still has a photograph of Maryam on her phone which she looks at constantly - this continually makes her cry.

Conclusion

28. For me, whenever I talk about Maryam, it all comes back to me. In these moments it feels like I am burning inside. But then I think, what can I do? We are all so devastated by what happened, but what can we do? We just hope the Inquiry can do something positive. The victims of the tragedy are gone, but there are people, friends and family, who have suffered mentally and emotionally since then. I hope that the Inquiry can help those people in some way.
29. I am not angry about what happened. It is not about being angry, as anger will not get us anywhere. But I hope that in the future, the smugglers can be prevented from making a business out of peoples' lives. They send these young people into the sea as if they are fish. I do not think these smugglers even considered my daughter, or others trying to reach the UK, as human beings.
30. I understand there is evidence, from the night of 23 November 2021, which shows that people in the boat called both the UK and French authorities for help. I believe that a survivor from the incident has also said they called both sides for help. For this reason, I consider both the UK and France responsible for what happened. They were called but no one went to help my daughter and those in the boat with her. No one made the decision to go to their aid. People speak about human rights, but where is the humanity in this? I do not see any humanity in how my daughter or the other victims were treated by the smugglers, the UK, or France. It is a significant injustice.

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:



وتەئى شاپەتچىخالى نوورى محەممەدئەمىن حەسەن

Personal Data من نوورى محەممەدئەمىن حەسەن باوئى مەريەم نوورى محەممەدئەمىن ، خەلىق كوردستانى عىراق ئەم قسانەى خوارە دەكەم .

۱. من باوئى يەكەك لە قوربانىكانى تراژىدى مانگى ۱۱ى ۲۰۲۱ مەريەم نوورى محەممەدئەمىن(مەريەم) من ئەو زانىارانە بە راوئىزكارى لە گەل ھاوسەرەكەم زەردەيا محەممەد خدر دەخمە بەر دەست. من وەك بەشدارىكى تەواوى لىكۆلنەمەى كرەستەن ديارى كراوم و ئەم وتانەى شايدەى حالىم بە ھاوئى پاریزەرانى دانكن لویس ئەمادە كرده.

۲. من ئەم وتانەم بۆيە ئەمادە كرده تا ئەو زانىارىيە پێوەندىدار بە پى زانىارى و تىگەشتەنم لە باردۆخى پێش و كاتى روودانى ئەو رووداوە كە لە ژىر لىكۆلنەمەدايە بەخمە بەردەست. من ئەو تەدەكەم ئەو زانىارىيانەى لە لایەن كچەكەمەو لە كاتى گەشتەكەدا بە من دراون رەنگە تەواو و درووست نەبن. ھەرەھا حەز دەكەم بۆ ئەو رووداوەكانى ۲۴/۲۳ى مانگى ۱۱ى ۲۰۲۱ بۆ خۆم و بۆ بنەمالەكەم زۆر بە ئازار و دژووار بوون. ئەمە نىزىكە ۳سالى بەسەرداچوووە و ئەمەش كاریگەرى لە سەر بىر و بە ياد ھىنانى گەفتگۆكان بە تەواوى و بە درووستى ھەيە.

۳. ئەم وتانەى لە شايدەتەخاڵەدا ھاتوون ھەمووى زانىارى خۆم مەگەر بە پێچەوانە باس كرايەت.

پاشخان

Personal Data ۴. من لە بە دواى ئەمەدا كە چەند سالى پێش باوئى وەك پەنابەرىك كوردستانى چەشتەبوو لە ئۆزبەكستان لە دايك بووم. لە ۱۴ى مانگى ۶ى ۱۹۵۹ دواى ئەو سەلامەت بوو بۆ گەرانەو دەگەل باەك و دايكەم و ۳ برام گەرانەو كوردستان.

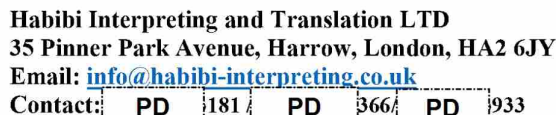
Personal Data ۵. من لە كوردستانى عىراق دەژىم. من پێشمەرگەى خانەنىشىم. لە تەمەنى ۱۴ سالىئەو لە ناو ھىزى عەسكەرى كوردستان كارم كرده. لە سالى ۲۰۰۹ خانەنىش بووم. بەلام ئىستاش خۆم پى پێشمەرگەيە.

۶. من لە گەل ھاوسەرەكەم زەردەيا محەممەد خدر دەژىم. ئێمە بە يەكەو ۶ مندالمان ھەيە ۵ كچ و كورنىك بە مەريەمە كە لە دايك بووى (۲۱ى مانگى ۳ى ۱۹۹۷) . كورەكەم محەممەد نوورى محەممەد ئەمىن بووى Personal Data ئىستاش لە گەل من و ھاوسەرەكەم دەژى. ۵ كچەكانم ئەمىنە لە دايك بووى ، پىلان لە دايك بووى Personal Data ، تەوان لە دايك بووى Personal Data و ھەلىن لە دايك بووى Personal Data ژيانى ھاوسەرگىريان پىك ھىناو و لە گەل خىزانەكانيان دەژىن.

مەريەم نوورى محەممەدئەمىن

۷. مەريەم لە ۲۱ى مانگى ۳ى ۱۹۹۷ لەدايەك بوو. تەمەنى ۲۴ سالى بوو كاتىك كوردستانى جەيئەشت. مەريەم بەلای مامناوئەد و بەرزى نىكەى ۱,۶۰ مەتر بوو. مەريەم چالاك و تەندروست بوو. ئەو وەرزشى زۆر دەكرد ھىچ كىشەى تەندرووستى نەبوو.

۸. مەريەم زۆر مەھرەبان بوو و ئاگای لە ھەمووان بوو. و ھەموو ئەندامانى خىزانەكەمان لەگەل ئەمەدا ھاوئان كە كچىكى زۆر باش بوو. ئەو بە شىوھەيكى بەرچاو گەنگى بەدايەكى دەدا و بە



١٤. نازانم به وردی بۆ کوئ ئه‌لمانيا گه‌شتکردوه، به‌لام ده‌زانم له‌ گه‌شته‌که‌دا، نزیکه‌ی ١٢ رۆژ له‌ هۆتێلێک مایه‌وه. کاتیک له‌ هۆتێله‌که‌ بوو، مریه‌م ژنێکی به‌ ناوی "مه‌هاباد ئه‌حممه‌د عه‌لی" (مه‌هاباد) ناسی، که‌ ئه‌ویش هه‌روه‌ها یه‌که‌که‌ له‌ قوربانێکانی رۆدواوه‌که‌ی مانگی ١١ ی ٢٠٢١ بوو. پێمانییه‌ مریه‌م پێش ئه‌وه‌ی له‌ ئه‌لمانيا له‌گه‌ڵ مه‌هابادا یه‌کتریان بپنیه‌وه، ئه‌وی ناسیبێت. مریه‌م پێی وتین که‌ مه‌هاباد مێردێ هه‌بوو له‌ به‌ریتانیا چاره‌ڕێ ده‌کرد.

۱۵. له ئالمانياره، مريهم و مههاباد ريځكهوتن به ئوتومبيلنك گهشت بكهن بۆ باكوري فهرنسا. باوهرم وايه له نزيك ۱۷ يان ۱۸ مانگي ۱۱ ي ۲۰۲۱ گهيشته كهنار او مكاني فهرنسا.

۱۶. نيمه لهگهل مريهم له دريژهي گهشتهكه له كوردستانهوه بۆ فهرنسا بهردوام له پيوهنديدا بووين. نيمه روژانه له ريځه يډيوكولي و سناپ چاتهوه قسهمان دهكرد. ئهو بهگشتي پيماندهگوت كه چي دهكرد و ههستي چون بوو، گوتي كه باشه، شويني نيشتهجييوونهكهي باشه. كاتيك نيمه قسهمان دهكر ئهو ههركيز گلبي نهدهكرد.

۱۷. دواي گهيشتيان به كهنار او مكاني فهرنسا، پيم وايه كه مريهم و مههاباد له هونتيك بۆ نزيكه ينج بۆ شەش شو مانهوه. خيزانهكهمان به شوو و روژ لهگهل مريهمدا له پيوهنديدا بووين. ئهو لهگهل من و داكي و خوشك و براكاني قسهي كرد. له پيوهنديبه، مريهم پي وتين: كه ئهو و مههاباد ناگيان له يهكتره و ههموو شتيك باشه.

۱۸. نيمه له تلهفوندا به مريهممان وت كه دهمانهوت كه به ههريځايهك جگه له بهلمهكي بچووك بۆ گهيشتن به بهريتانيا به كار بينيت. له ماوهيدا هيج كات باسي نهكرد كه پلاني ههيوه به بهلمهكي بچووك بگاته بهريتانيا، بويه نيمه هيوادار بووين كه ئهو ريځايهكي سهلامهتتر بهكار بهيئت.

۱۹. لهگهل ئهوهشدا، نزيكه ي روژ و نيويك پيش ئهوهي كونا گهشتهي بكات، مريهم بهتهواي پيوهندي له گهلاني راگرت. دوايين جار كه قسه لهگهلدا كرد له ۲۲ مانگي ۱۱ ي ۲۰۲۱ بوو. له لهگهل گفتوگويده دووباره داوام لئكرد كه نارام بگري، و چاوهر ئ بكات تا ئهو كاتهي كه ريځايهك سهلامهتتر له پهرينهوهي كهناكه به بهلمهكي بچووك دهوژينهوه بۆ گهيشتن به بهريتانيا.

۲۰. كاتيك ههولمدا تلهفون بۆ مريهم بكهم له ۲۲ مانگي ۱۱ و دواتر له ۲۳ مانگي ۱۱ ي ۲۰۲۱ دا، تلهفونهكه كورابووه و نهمانتواني قسهي لهگهلدا بكهن. به ئاوردانهوه بۆ ئهو كات پيم وايه كه لهوانهيه لهبهريتهوهي برياري خوي دابوو، كه ههول بدات به بهلمهيك كهناي مانش بپريت برياري داخستني تلهفونهكهي دابي. من پيم وايه ئهو دهويست خوي دوور بگري لهوهي دهبارهي بريارهكهي پيمان بلئت، چونكه دهيزاني نيمه نيگهرا دهكا و نهويستوه نيمه بترسين.

۲۱. دواتر دواي رووداوكه بۆم دهركهوت كه مريهم له ۲۳ مانگي ۱۱ ي ۲۰۲۱ له گهل ئاموزاكي ئهفين سهعيد خورشيد (ئهفين)، كه له كوردستان دهزي قسهي كردوه، تيكهيشتي من ئهوهيه كه ئهوان پيوهنديكي تلهفونيان ههيوه و مريهم به ئهفين وت: "سهبه له بهريتانيا دهيم". باقي خيزانهكهمان لهو كاتهدا ناگادار ئهوه نهوون، بهلام ئهفين باسي ئهو پيوهندييهي بۆ زهرديه هواسهرم كردبوو، كاتيك خلك كۆبوونهوه له مالهكهمان دواي ئهوهي مريهم و هك قوربانيهك ناوي هات.

پاشكويهكاني شهوي ۲۳ مانگي ۱۱ ي ۲۰۲۱

۲۲. له بهري ئهوهي له ۲۲ مانگي ۱۱ ي ۲۰۲۱ هههه هيج ههواليكمان له مريهم نهيوه، هيج



بیرۆکیه کهمان نهیوو که ئهو ههولای داوه که له کهناڵه که بهیڕیتوه. دواتر له ٢٤ ی مانگی ١١ ی ٢٠٢١، له ههولاهکاندا بینیمان که بهلهمیک له کاتی ههولدان بۆ گهیشتن به بهریتانیا نوقم بوو. ئیمه ئهممان له تلهفزیۆنی ناوخری و ههولای نیودهولتی و له ئینتەرنێت بینى. له پرۆژانی دواى ئهم کارساته، مریهم وەک قوربانییهک ناوی له سهر ههولاهکان بلاو بووه. ئهمه تاریکترین سات بوو له ژياندا، و دلتهنگترین پرۆژ بوو له ههموو ژيانماندا. زۆر زحمهته بۆ من باسکردنی ئهوێ چهنده سهخت بوو، سههرتا بیستنی لهههولاهکاندا، له گهل ئهمهش لهشونینی پرووداوه که نهیوون. لهوکاتهدا، وامزانی ههرگیز جهستهی نابینمهوه، که وایکرد ئهموونیکى نازار بهخشر بیت.

٢٣. دواتر له ماله کهمان کۆری یادهوهریمان بۆ مریهم دهستپێکرد. دواى ئهوێ رامانگهیاندا که کۆری یادهوهری دهگرین، خهڵک له ههموو لایه کهوه دهستیان کرد به هاتن بۆ بینینی ئیمه. پرۆژانه، زیاتر له ١٠٠ کس دههاتن و هاوخرمی و سهرمخۆشی خۆیان دهردهبری. ههمووان تووشی شوک بپوون و سهریان سورما بوو لهو رووداوه و نهیاندتوانی تێیگهن بۆچی بهلهمه که رزگار نهکراوه. له ماوهیدا چهندین دهزگای میدیایی ههپوون، ههم بیانی و ههم کوردی، و قسهیان لهگهڵدا کردین. پێم وایه مریهم یهکهمین قوربانی بوو که ناوی هات، و من ئهم لهبیره له چاوپێکهوتنهکانی پرۆژانهوانی و پرۆژانه بیانییهکاندا که باسی لێوه دهکریت. به جۆریک، وەک مریهم بوو به نموونهکی تراژیدیاکه.

٢٤. یهک دوو پرۆژ دواى کارساتهکه، هاوڕێیهکم به ناوی ئیسماعیل حهمد خودوور ("ئیسماعیل")، بهشداری له مهراسیمی یادکردنهوکهمان کرد. ئهو له گهرهکه کهماندا دهژی بۆیه ماوهیهکی زۆره دهبناسم. ئیسماعیل باسی کورمهکی بۆ کردم، که موسلم ئیسماعیل حهمد ((موسلم)) بوو، که له دواى کارساتهکهوه ههچى لێی نهبیستبوو. پێی وابوو موسلم له ههمان بهلهمی مریهمدا بووبیت، و پرسباری لێدهکردم، 'چی بکه؟'

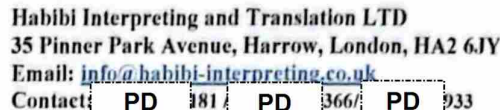
٢٥. رپۆرهسمی یادکردنهوکهمان له دواى رووداوهکهوه بهردهوام بوو تا له کۆتاییدا تهرمهکهیمان وهرگرتوه و پرسهمان ئهنجامدا. پێم وایه ئهمه له دهووروبهری کۆتایی مانگی ١٢ ی ٢٠٢١ بوو

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٢٦. ههچ شتیک لهوه خراپتر نییه که کهسیکی نازیز لهدهست بدیت، بهتایبهتی مندالهکهت. خهساریکی گهرمهیه. نازانم بهراستی دهتوانم چی بلێم لهسهر ئهم بابته و چون دهتوانم پروونی بکهمهوه. کارساتی سالی ٢٠٢١ کاریگهریهکی زۆری لهسهر خێزانهکهمان ههپووه.

٢٧. لهوتهی مریهم لهدهستداوه، ژنهکهم زۆر به خراپی تووشی کێشهی تهنروستی دهروونی بووه، ههروهها دهستیکردوه به تووشبوون به نهخۆشی سهرنیشه. ناتوانین به تهنیا جیی بهیالین و یان من یان کورمهکم، محهمد نووری محهمد ئهمین، دهبی له دهووروبهری بین بۆ چاودیریکردنی. ههر که ژنهکهم ههولای ناوهێنانی مریهمی وەک قوربانی بیست، بههۆی شوکهکهوه بههۆش بوو و ناچار بووین ببهینه نهخۆشخانه. ئیستا دواى سێ سال، ژنهکهم هیشتا وینهی مریهم له موبایلهکهیدا ههیه که بهردهوام سهیری دهکات و بهردهوام دهگری.

دهرهنجام



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