

Coroner's Inquests into the London Bombings of 7 July 2005
Hearing transcripts - 20 January 2011 - Afternoon session

1 (2.00 pm)

2 MR ANDREW O'CONNOR: My Lady, our next witness is
3 Professor Dunlop, who is appearing by videolink.

4 LADY JUSTICE HALLETT: Thank you.

5 MR ANDREW O'CONNOR: Professor Dunlop, can you hear me?

6 THE WITNESS: Yes, I can.

7 MR ANDREW O'CONNOR: Professor, my name's Andrew O'Connor.
8 I'm one of the Counsel to the Inquests and I'm going to
9 be asking you questions first. It's likely that one or
10 more of my colleagues will ask you some questions after
11 I've finished. We're in court and the coroner,
12 Lady Justice Hallett, is here, although I think you
13 probably can't see her.

14 Before we start your evidence, could I ask you to
15 take the oath or affirm, please?

16 THE WITNESS: Yes, I'm affirming.

17 PROFESSOR WILLIAM DUNLOP (affirmed)

18 (Evidence given by videolink)

19 Questions by MR ANDREW O'CONNOR

20 MR ANDREW O'CONNOR: Thank you. Can you give your full
21 name, please?

22 A. William Dunlop.

23 Q. In 2005, you were a Professor of Obstetrics and
24 Gynaecology at Newcastle University, I think?

25 A. Correct.

1 Q. Do you still hold that post?

2 A. No, I've now retired.

3 Q. I see. In the statement that you gave to police about
4 the events of 7 July 2005, you explain that, at that
5 time, you had an office in the BMA building in
6 Tavistock Square. Is that right?

7 A. That's correct. I chaired a committee jointly between
8 the Academy of Medical Royal Colleges and the BMA, and
9 I had an office because of that.

10 Q. I see, and in fact, you were in that office on the
11 morning of 7 July 2005?

12 A. That's correct.

13 Q. At around 9.45, or a minute or two after, that morning,
14 you heard an explosion?

15 A. I did.

16 Q. Were you able, from your office, to look out into the
17 street or did your office not face that way?

18 A. No, my office faced over the courtyard, I couldn't see
19 into the street.

20 Q. When you heard the noise, did you have any idea what
21 might have caused it?

22 A. I thought it might be a bomb. But I had no way of
23 knowing where.

24 Q. What did you do?

25 A. Well, I left my office when the -- very shortly after

1 the explosion, there were, I think, two women who ran
2 into the courtyard screaming. So I, at that stage,
3 realised there must be something close to BMA House and,
4 at more or less the same time, the alarm system started
5 to ring, so I went downstairs and, when I got
6 downstairs, discovered that the problem had been at the
7 front of BMA House and so I went out in that direction.

8 Q. You say you went downstairs. What floor was your office
9 on?

10 A. The first floor. Actually, sorry, the second floor.

11 Q. So there were, what, two --

12 A. The second floor.

13 Q. -- flights of stairs that you needed to travel, go down,
14 to get --

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. Did that then lead you straight out into the courtyard
17 at the bottom of the stairs?

18 A. Yes, but the far corner of the courtyard from where the
19 bomb exploded.

20 Q. So you then had to make your way to the front of the
21 building, in order to get out into Tavistock Square?

22 A. Yes, correct.

23 Q. Did you stop to talk to anyone or to do anything as you
24 made your way towards the front of the building?

25 A. No, I didn't, I just went straight outside.

1 Q. The reasons I've been asking you quite detailed
2 questions so far, Professor, is that it's important that
3 we can get as clear an idea as possible as to how long
4 it was between the time of the explosion and the time
5 that you finally emerged from the archway into
6 Tavistock Square itself.

7 Can you give us your best idea of how long that
8 period was, please?

9 A. I think it might have been about five minutes.

10 Q. Do you think it might have been longer or are you
11 reasonably confident that five minutes is the right
12 time?

13 A. I think I'm reasonably confident. I was downstairs
14 really quite quickly after the women came into the
15 courtyard.

16 Q. Describe for us, please, what you saw as you came out
17 into Tavistock Square.

18 A. Well, I was met by someone on my way out through the --
19 there's a -- at that time -- because the building has
20 now been modified -- at that time, there was a corridor
21 which you had to go through to get out on to
22 Tavistock Square and, as I went through that corridor,
23 I met someone who had blankets in her arms and she said,
24 "I've been asked to cover these bodies, but I can't do
25 that", and she gave me the blankets.

1 So what I saw when I got outside, first of all, were
2 two bodies, and then the wreckage of the bus and the
3 other people around.

4 Q. I see, thank you. I hope that you have with you there,
5 or that someone can provide you with, a photograph of
6 the scene in Tavistock Square that morning.

7 A. Yes, I do.

8 Q. We're looking at what I hope is the same photograph in
9 court, Professor. Is it a photograph taken from behind
10 the bus and above looking towards the scene?

11 A. Yes, that's correct.

12 Q. Looking at the pavement on the left-hand side of the
13 photograph, we see the zebra crossing, and just a little
14 above that we see a cobbled area on the pavement. Do
15 you see that?

16 A. Yes, I do.

17 Q. Is it right that that's the entrance or the vehicle
18 entrance into the archway that then takes one through
19 that sort of tunnel area into the courtyard?

20 A. Well, that's correct, but that gateway was normally
21 closed, and in fact, the entrance that pedestrians used
22 was to the side of that. More or less where the man in
23 the green is standing.

24 Q. Yes, we've heard that from other witnesses, so it was
25 really only vehicles that went up and down the main --

1 the central arch, and there was an arch on the far side
2 that pedestrians would use?

3 A. That's correct.

4 Q. That's the way that you emerged into the square, is it?

5 A. That's correct.

6 Q. From what you've described, you were already holding the
7 blankets when you fully left the archway and moved into
8 the square?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. Now, you can see on the pavement, at around the place
11 that you must have emerged, although they're pixelated,
12 an area of brown colour and below it an area of blue
13 colour. Do you see those?

14 A. Yes, I do.

15 Q. It may be, in fact -- I can tell you that those are
16 blankets or coverings of some sort. It may be that
17 those are the very blankets you had. Do you, in fact,
18 remember what colour the blankets were?

19 A. I think it may well -- no, I don't, I'm sorry. But it
20 may well be. I mean, those two blankets are in about
21 the right area from my point of view.

22 Q. Thank you. Now, you describe, of course, covering two
23 bodies, one the torso of a male and the other a body of
24 a young lady. Is that right?

25 A. That's correct.

1 Q. Let me ask you about the young lady first. We believe
2 that her body was lying where we see the brown covering.
3 Do you remember that now? Does that sound right to you?

4 A. Yes, it's difficult to remember. What I said in my
5 witness statement was it was to the -- in front and to
6 the left of the male. So that would probably make
7 sense.

8 Q. It would be right, wouldn't it, because, as you were
9 coming out --

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. -- the area we now see as brown would have presumably
12 have been to your left or certainly to the left of the
13 male.

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. What do you remember about that young lady's body,
16 Professor?

17 A. Very little, I'm afraid, especially after this length of
18 time, but I actually didn't pay a huge amount of
19 attention to those two individuals. I covered them up,
20 having satisfied myself that they were dead, because
21 there were other injured people that I had to move on to
22 deal with, so I'm afraid I can't give detailed
23 descriptions of what I saw.

24 Q. No. We do understand that, Professor. I'll ask you one
25 or two more questions, but of course we understand that

1 this is now some years later.

2 You say in your statement -- you describe the young
3 lady as being clearly dead.

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. Can you expand on that? Why was it that you thought she
6 was clearly dead?

7 A. I really can't remember now. I think -- I mean, there
8 would obviously be no signs of life, and whether there
9 were injuries that I thought were not compatible with
10 survival, I cannot remember. I actually don't remember
11 whether I, you know, tried to establish death in any
12 formal way. I suspect I didn't, because it would be too
13 obvious that she couldn't have survived.

14 Q. You said a moment ago that you placed the blankets, or
15 blanket, on this lady, having satisfied yourself that
16 she was dead. You say you may not have, for example,
17 taken her pulse, but do you think that you would have,
18 in one way or another, as you say, satisfied yourself
19 that she was dead before putting the blanket over her?

20 A. Oh, certainly. Certainly.

21 Q. Do you remember whether you placed the blanket over her
22 first and then the male, or is that something you simply
23 can't remember at this distance in time?

24 A. I thought it was the male first, but it is a little
25 difficult to remember.

1 Q. The male's body we've heard already some evidence about.
2 It was undoubtedly a dead body. Is that right?

3 A. Yes, as far as I remember, there were quite extensive
4 injuries, but I don't remember them in detail.

5 Q. In your statement, Professor -- I'm now going to ask you
6 just a few questions about some of the casualties who
7 had survived, whom you were involved in treating -- you
8 describe seeing a white female whom you describe as
9 being heavily-built, aged in her 30s to 40s. Do you
10 have a memory of being involved with that -- with
11 treating that casualty?

12 A. Well, I do, because she had an obvious compound fracture
13 of one leg, the bone was actually sticking through.

14 Q. Do you remember anything else about her condition now?

15 A. I remember at the time that she was conscious and had
16 obviously lost quite a bit of blood, but was still,
17 I think, able to respond to people. I don't remember
18 detail and I wouldn't like to give the wrong impression,
19 but I remember thinking that she was -- she was
20 obviously badly injured, but didn't look quite as ill as
21 I would have expected someone with those injuries to
22 have.

23 Now, of course, that was quite soon after the injury
24 and that might have changed very quickly.

25 Q. I see. Did you stay with her for any length of time?

1 A. Yes, I think -- yes, I actually helped to lift her into
2 the courtyard, I said in my statement. I remember we
3 had doors that were brought out from BMA House and
4 I think she was put on one.

5 Q. Did you stay with her after she had been brought into
6 the courtyard, or did you leave her at that point?

7 A. No, I left her and came back out to try to find other
8 casualties that I could help. There were several of us
9 there at the time and so there were other people looking
10 after her. It wasn't necessary for me to be there as
11 well.

12 Q. No, I understand, thank you. You go on in your
13 statement to describe being approached by, as you put
14 it, a female in yellow jacket who asked you to attend to
15 gentleman who was trapped on the bus. Do you recall
16 that?

17 A. Yes, I do.

18 Q. Might that lady have been a policewoman?

19 A. It's possible. It's difficult to tell under these
20 circumstances. Everyone was wearing a yellow jacket and
21 I think, from the way she spoke, it's unlikely she was
22 a paramedic, so she could have been a policewoman.

23 Q. We've heard evidence in the last day or so from
24 a policewoman who describes approaching someone she
25 thought was a doctor and asking him to go and attend to

1 this man.

2 A. Right.

3 Q. So it may well have been her. My Lady, you'll recall
4 the evidence of Ms Russell-Fenwick.

5 So this was a man whose head and upper torso was
6 protruding from the nearside of the bus. Is that right?

7 A. That's correct, yes.

8 Q. What do you remember about him, Professor?

9 A. He was almost unconscious. He was lapsing in and out of
10 consciousness, and I wasn't certain -- there was someone
11 trying to talk to him, but he wasn't responding to that
12 conversation. Now, whether that was because he was
13 severely ill or whether because his English was not
14 good, I don't know, but I certainly was not able to
15 converse with him at all.

16 On the other hand, he was clearly alive. I think
17 I did take a pulse in this case and it was quite clear
18 that he was alive, but he was trapped in the wreckage of
19 the bus, and it wasn't until a fire crew came and freed
20 him that we were able to get him out the bus. I stayed
21 with him until then.

22 Q. Thank you. We've heard some evidence that there was
23 a man holding his head. Do you recall that?

24 A. That could well be true. There was certainly a man who
25 was talking to him and he may have been holding his head

1 at the same time. I don't remember.

2 Q. We've also heard that when the doctors -- including
3 yourself -- came out of the BMA, the intention was --
4 we've heard that this was achieved -- that there should
5 be one or more than one doctor attending to each of the
6 casualties and trying to do their best for them. Was
7 it, in fact, possible to treat this man in his position
8 in the bus or not?

9 A. I don't remember detail. I think he had an arm free, so
10 it might have been possible to get a drip in or
11 something like that, but at that time, as far as
12 I remember, we didn't actually have the emergency kit to
13 do that, so while it might have been possible in theory,
14 I don't think it was possible in practice.

15 Q. Is it the case that you don't remember whether any, for
16 example, as you say, a drip was inserted into him or any
17 other sort of intervention was taken at that stage?

18 A. I'm pretty certain there was no drip put in at that
19 point.

20 Q. You stayed with him until the fire crew managed to
21 extract him?

22 A. Yes, and we then -- I think we took him back into the
23 courtyard where -- that was the sort of triage area and,
24 again, another group looked after him from that point
25 on, and I know he was pretty -- well, he was obviously

1 pretty severely ill at that point --

2 Q. I'm sorry, I interrupted you.

3 A. Yes, he was obviously pretty severely ill at that point
4 and it was uncertain whether he would survive.

5 MR ANDREW O'CONNOR: Thank you very much, Professor. Those
6 are all the questions I have for you. As I said, it may
7 be that some others have more questions for you now.

8 Thank you.

9 A. Thank you.

10 LADY JUSTICE HALLETT: Any questions? Ms Gallagher?

11 Questions by MS GALLAGHER

12 MS GALLAGHER: Could we have the photograph back up again,
13 please?

14 Professor, I represent the family of Miriam Hyman
15 who is the lady under the brown blanket in the
16 photograph which you looked at earlier, so one of the
17 two bodies that you covered up, we believe. I just have
18 a number of questions following on from the questions
19 Mr O'Connor has asked you.

20 First of all, the lady who gave you the blankets,
21 I'm just going to ask you some questions about her. You
22 said in evidence today you met her in the corridor on
23 your way out of the building and you mentioned that the
24 building has a different layout now to the layout it had
25 at the time. Could you help us with this: was it

1 possible from the corridor to see the outside?

2 A. Yes, to see out into the street, yes. It's just a very
3 short area where there was a reception desk at that
4 time.

5 Q. You've told us that what she said was, "I've been asked
6 to cover these bodies, but I can't do this". I assume
7 she was in some distress?

8 A. She was.

9 Q. Did she give any indication of the bodies she was
10 referring to? Did she point out any particular bodies
11 to you?

12 A. I think she just indicated a general -- where the bodies
13 were. She didn't actually come with me. I think she
14 was too upset to do that.

15 Q. Then, when you go outside and you see the two bodies
16 you've referred to, you assume they're the bodies she's
17 referring to?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. Did she give an indication of the number of bodies? Did
20 she say "two" or just "these bodies"?

21 A. I really can't remember that.

22 Q. Of course, Professor. Could you help us a little more
23 with the lady in question? Today, you said "someone"
24 and then you said "she" was holding blankets, so
25 obviously it's a lady, do you recall anything about her

1 age?

2 A. No, I really -- it was all happening so quickly that
3 I didn't really pay much attention to her, I just took
4 the blankets and went out. I'm sorry, I can't help.

5 Q. Of course, I entirely understand I'm asking you these
6 questions five and a half years later, I realise it was
7 a fleeting moment.

8 Professor, in November 2005, when you gave your
9 witness statement to the police, you described her as
10 a white female in her 30s or 40s. Does that ring any
11 bells?

12 A. Well, I may have remembered better at that time, but
13 even then, it was still four months after the event.

14 Q. Of course. Professor, just in terms of the timing --
15 that's the next thing I just want to ask you about --
16 you said in answer to questions earlier that you were
17 reasonably confident it was five minutes from the
18 explosion. I'd suggest to you, Professor, in fact it
19 was a little longer than that and certainly at least ten
20 minutes.

21 The reason for that is -- I'm not going to bring
22 this up on screen, my Lady, because obviously the
23 witness doesn't have it -- we know from other evidence
24 that the first ambulance that arrived on the scene is
25 timed at about 9.57. The explosion is at 9.47,

1 according to the records we have. So about ten minutes.
2 In that ambulance is two ladies, a Ms Green and
3 a Ms Conway, a paramedic and an emergency medical
4 technician. We know from their statements that they had
5 to grab equipment, speak to police officers and then
6 come to the scene.

7 One of them describes very vividly seeing a torso
8 just outside the BMA building and then an apparently
9 lifeless female body which matches Miriam Hyman's
10 description just beside that.

11 A. Right.

12 Q. If that's right, that means that some time at 9.57 or
13 a number of minutes thereafter, both the torso and
14 Miriam Hyman aren't, in fact, covered, which would
15 suggest, if that's right, that you arrived some time
16 after that, maybe only a moment after that, but
17 certainly a little later than the five minutes you
18 estimated earlier.

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. Do you accept it could have been 10, 11, 12 minutes?

21 A. I suppose that's possible. I'm certainly there before
22 most of the other doctors arrived, so I assumed it was
23 about that time, but I may have to be corrected.

24 MS GALLAGHER: Of course. My Lady, just for your note, the
25 reference for the timing of the ambulance is LAS714-2,

1 and the reference to Ms Conway's statement, it's
2 INQ2034. She's due to be read next week.

3 LADY JUSTICE HALLETT: Thank you.

4 MS GALLAGHER: Professor, when you got outside and you saw
5 these two bodies and you assumed they were the people
6 the distressed lady had been referring to, you've
7 described, very understandably, today, how your priority
8 was moving on to the other injured, and you did say that
9 you didn't pay a huge amount of attention to the two
10 bodies. You've no recollection of checking Ms Hyman's
11 pulse?

12 A. I have no recollection. I mean, I satisfied myself she
13 was dead. I mean, taking a peripheral pulse in the
14 radius of someone like that is not really a particularly
15 good way of establishing death, I understand.

16 Q. Is it right, obviously given your professional training,
17 and what you saw, you were assuming that, for some
18 reason at the time, you satisfied yourself she was dead,
19 you're not sure what formal steps you took to do that,
20 and at that point you placed the blanket over her --

21 A. Correct.

22 Q. -- and you moved on?

23 A. Yes, that's correct.

24 Q. Professor, the family have a number of other questions.

25 I don't think you're likely to be able to help with

1 this, but I'm going to ask you anyway.

2 Do you have any recollection of whether her eyes
3 were open or closed?

4 A. No, I don't remember, sorry.

5 Q. I appreciate it's very detailed, but it's something that
6 the family just wanted to ask in case you have a memory
7 of it.

8 Professor, after you covered Miriam with the
9 blanket, as we've heard, you stayed in or around the BMA
10 for quite some time tending to others, to injured. Do
11 you recall seeing her body at any later stage during the
12 day?

13 A. Well, I came back in and out through that gateway, so
14 I must have seen it, but of course, it was covered with
15 a blanket, so I couldn't see the body as such.

16 Q. That's exactly what I was going to ask you. Do you
17 recall seeing her later still in situ with the brown
18 blanket over her? You may not be able to --

19 A. I think so, yes. Well, I wouldn't be paying a lot of
20 attention to that, I'm afraid.

21 Q. Of course. It's simply because the family want to
22 establish whether anyone later checks her body, moves
23 the blanket, and checks her body, Professor.

24 Then there's just one last matter, which isn't
25 related to Ms Hyman at all but it's relevant to the

1 general scene.

2 Later in your statement you describe there being
3 a system of recording casualty details in place. Do you
4 recall when you became aware that that system was in
5 place? Can you give us any rough estimate of timing?

6 A. It may well have been in place, but not involved me, at
7 an earlier stage, but when I became involved, it was
8 when we were actually inside the building, so if you
9 read my statement, you'll see that we started out in the
10 courtyard itself and, as it started to rain slightly, it
11 was decided to move the casualties into the building, so
12 it was at that point that I was aware of it.

13 MS GALLAGHER: I'm very grateful, Professor, I'll just
14 confirm there's nothing further. Thank you very much.

15 LADY JUSTICE HALLETT: Mr Saunders?

16 Questions by MR SAUNDERS

17 MR SAUNDERS: Professor, I only have one matter that I'd
18 like your assistance with. You've described assisting
19 the Oriental male that's trapped on the bus.

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. I represent the family of a 30-year-old lady who is
22 seated directly behind that gentleman we know as
23 Mr Sam Ly.

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. She, too, was at the window seat, her right arm outside

1 the bus. Do you remember seeing her?

2 A. I think there were certainly bodies on the bus. She was
3 dead, presumably, was she?

4 Q. That's exactly what I want to ask you about.

5 Can I help you with this part of the description?

6 Her head was tilted skywards. She had a brown or beige
7 mac on and it's quite clear from some of the photographs
8 a black handbag can be seen either across her shoulder
9 or on her arm.

10 A. Well, I do have a recollection of someone like that, but
11 I don't remember any details. I think from -- as far as
12 I remember, the position she was in made it very
13 unlikely that she was alive, so I wouldn't -- I was
14 paying more attention to the man who was alive, I'm
15 afraid.

16 Q. Professor, that's exactly why I ask you these questions.

17 As far as you would have been aware in the close
18 proximity you were, there was nothing to suggest that
19 she was anything other than dead at that stage?

20 A. That's correct.

21 MR SAUNDERS: Thank you very much for your help, Professor.

22 MS SHEFF: No, thank you.

23 LADY JUSTICE HALLETT: Any other questions for the
24 Professor?

25 Professor Dunlop, can you hear me? I'm Lady Justice

1 Hallett conducting the inquests.

2 A. I can.

3 LADY JUSTICE HALLETT: Those are all the questions counsel
4 have for you. Could I just ask if you could help in
5 this respect: you mentioned going to the bus to help the
6 Oriental gentleman and you said you had to wait for the
7 London Fire Brigade to free him before you could, as it
8 were, get any kind of access to him to treat him.

9 A. Yes.

10 LADY JUSTICE HALLETT: Do you have any idea how long you
11 were there with him before he was freed from the
12 wreckage?

13 A. It would only be minutes. It wouldn't be a lengthy
14 period of time. But, I mean, sufficient time for the
15 other gentleman, who I think was a passer-by, to be
16 talking to him. So it must have been several minutes.
17 But I didn't feel there was any inordinate delay or
18 anything like that.

19 LADY JUSTICE HALLETT: Thank you very much. That's very
20 helpful. Thank you for taking the trouble to give
21 evidence before me, and thank you very much indeed for
22 all that you did for the injured on that day, putting
23 your own life at risk and working so hard. Thank you
24 very much?

25 A. Thank you very much indeed, thank you.

1 LADY JUSTICE HALLETT: Yes, Mr O'Connor?

2 MR ANDREW O'CONNOR: My Lady, our final witness is also
3 a video witness. She is giving evidence I believe from
4 Nebraska.

5 LADY JUSTICE HALLETT: So we can't exactly advance the time?

6 MR ANDREW O'CONNOR: She might still be asleep, for all we
7 know. I know that there were going to be some attempts
8 made to see if we could advance the time, but I don't
9 know what stage they've reached. It may be, my Lady, if
10 you were to rise, we will see what progress has been
11 made.

12 LADY JUSTICE HALLETT: I can see a head shake, Mr O'Connor,
13 I think.

14 MR ANDREW O'CONNOR: In which case, my Lady, perhaps we can
15 deal with this at 3.00.

16 LADY JUSTICE HALLETT: I think just before I rise, Mr Smith
17 has informed me that The Sun newspaper is asking whether
18 there is any update on whether I will approve the
19 release of the photograph taken from the hotel.

20 MR ANDREW O'CONNOR: Yes.

21 LADY JUSTICE HALLETT: I understand -- they're not here,
22 unfortunately -- but I understand that Kingsley Napley
23 are in the process of writing a letter about this.

24 I don't know if anybody else is yet in a position to
25 make submissions.

1 Ms Gallagher, plainly you are affected on behalf of
2 Ms Hyman. Have you had an opportunity to take any
3 instructions?

4 MS GALLAGHER: Yes, they don't object to the release of the
5 photograph. It plainly does show Miriam covered. It
6 doesn't -- she's not identifiable from it and the
7 family -- I've taken their instructions carefully.
8 Unless they've altered their position today, they don't
9 object to its release.

10 I should say this isn't on behalf of any of my
11 clients, but plainly there's an issue regarding the
12 survivors in the photograph as well as any bereaved in
13 the photographs. I'm conscious that you've invited
14 submissions from those of us who represent bereaved
15 families. But plainly you won't have had submissions
16 from survivors who are being treated in those -- in the
17 photograph, and that's simply a matter which I just
18 raise for completeness, but my instructions certainly
19 are not to object, either on behalf of the Hymans or on
20 behalf of the Fatayi-Williamses.

21 LADY JUSTICE HALLETT: Before I ask you to make any final
22 submissions, I meant to ask this: have you had an
23 opportunity to discuss with the families the way in
24 which the photographs I have authorised publication of
25 have been treated in the press?

1 MS GALLAGHER: My Lady, I understand what you're referring
2 to. I haven't discussed it with the Hymans. Plainly
3 yesterday and today have been very distressing and we've
4 been concentrating on the witnesses of relevance to
5 Miriam yesterday and today.

6 LADY JUSTICE HALLETT: Indeed.

7 MS GALLAGHER: I haven't specifically drawn their attention
8 to the press coverage to which you're referring.
9 I certainly can take instructions on that.

10 LADY JUSTICE HALLETT: I think I would feel happier if, as
11 delicately, obviously, as you can -- if you feel that
12 you don't wish to take the matter further, then I will
13 understand.

14 MS GALLAGHER: I'm very conscious of the photograph you're
15 referring to and why you're referring to it and I will
16 discuss that with my clients.

17 LADY JUSTICE HALLETT: Thank you.

18 MS GALLAGHER: Thank you.

19 LADY JUSTICE HALLETT: Mr Saunders, do you have any comments
20 to make?

21 MR SAUNDERS: My Lady, I was made aware yesterday of
22 a particular photograph. For obvious reasons, with
23 Mr and Mrs Parathasangary who are not here this
24 afternoon but have been throughout --

25 LADY JUSTICE HALLETT: I know they have, yes.

1 MR SAUNDERS: -- I've been very conscious not to draw that
2 to their attention, for obvious reasons, as upsetting as
3 this week and last has been for them, but bearing in
4 mind what I've seen, I think I should, because although
5 Shyanu is not obvious, the passer-by in the smart
6 trenchcoat we've seen referred to is obviously standing
7 in the proximity of Shyanu and Sam Ly, and it may well
8 be that reference would be made.

9 So I think, in those circumstances, we should take
10 specific instructions, because they would, I think, be
11 concerned if something similar was to appear again.

12 LADY JUSTICE HALLETT: Ms Sheff, are you affected by this?

13 MS SHEFF: We are affected on behalf of Mr Hart. We haven't
14 taken specific instructions on the photograph to which
15 your Ladyship refers. Unfortunately, there has been
16 a very serious illness in the family and Maryla Hart,
17 who is normally present at all the parts of the inquest
18 which concern her father, has not been able to attend
19 now since the start of the hearing.

20 We have literally just spoken to her, in fact, and
21 she was coming out of hospital, and we intend to speak
22 to her again later this afternoon and we will raise that
23 issue with her.

24 LADY JUSTICE HALLETT: Thank you very much.

25 I think there we have it, Mr O'Connor. I am not in

1 a position until proper instructions have been taken,
2 and if anybody is in touch with anybody who might be, as
3 Ms Gallagher has pointed out, a survivor who appears on
4 the photograph, I would obviously like to hear as many
5 representations from those affected as possible before
6 I rule finally.

7 MR ANDREW O'CONNOR: Yes. My Lady, some two of the
8 survivors who we do know one can see in that picture --
9 Camille Scott and Emma Plunkett -- Mr Smith is, of
10 course, in touch with, because they are witnesses; one
11 has already given evidence, one is still to give
12 evidence.

13 There is, however, clearly also a category of people
14 who appear in that photograph whom we are not in contact
15 with and whom we are unlikely ever to be in contact with
16 simply because we don't know who they are. For example,
17 the gentleman holding Sam Ly's head up, we know that is
18 someone whom the police have tried to identify and
19 unsuccessfully. That will clearly -- the fact that he
20 is there will clearly be something you will wish to
21 consider in due course.

22 It is also to be borne in mind that this photograph,
23 as we know from having been able to enlarge it for our
24 own purposes, is a very high definition photograph. If
25 we can enlarge it, clearly so can the press, and recent

1 experience has suggested that at least certain
2 newspapers may well choose to enlarge a photograph when
3 they publish it.

4 My Lady, the final thing I'll say now is that I know
5 that Mr Hill, on behalf of the Metropolitan Police, will
6 seek to make submissions to you about this before you
7 make any final ruling.

8 LADY JUSTICE HALLETT: Thank you very much. In which case,
9 if I could be told, please, when the video link is up
10 and running, thank you.

11 (2.35 pm)

12 (The short adjournment)

13 (3.10 pm)

14 MR ANDREW O'CONNOR: My Lady, I think we're now ready to go.

15 Ms Riak-Akuei, I think you can now hear me, can you?

16 THE WITNESS: I can hear you.

17 MR ANDREW O'CONNOR: More to the point, we can hear you.

18 THE WITNESS: Okay. Excuse me, just one moment. Can you
19 move my picture, because I can't see his face? Thank
20 you. That's fine. Okay.

21 MR ANDREW O'CONNOR: Ms Riak-Akuei, my name is
22 Andrew O'Connor. I'm going to ask you some questions
23 first and it may be that, after that, some of the other
24 barristers in the room have some questions for you then.
25 The coroner, Lady Justice Hallett, is in the

1 courtroom, I'm not sure if you can see her on the screen
2 as well. In case you can't, you know that she's here.
3 Before I ask you any questions, we need to ask you
4 either to take the oath or to affirm. I can see that
5 you've got a Bible there. I hope you've got the words
6 in front of you. Perhaps you can read them out.

7 THE WITNESS: Okay.

8 MS STEPHANIE RIAK-AKUEI (affirmed)

9 (Evidence given by videolink)

10 Questions by MR ANDREW O'CONNOR

11 MR ANDREW O'CONNOR: Thank you. Can you give us your full
12 name, please?

13 A. My name is Stephanie Riak-Akuei, Stephanie Riak-Akuei.

14 Q. Thank you. In 2005, it's right, I think, that you were
15 living in London?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. On the morning of 7 July 2005, you were following your
18 normal routine of walking to work?

19 A. Yes, most of the time I was walking.

20 Q. We've seen the statement that you gave to the police
21 a week or so after these events and in that statement
22 you describe how you were working in Bedford Way and you
23 lived fairly close by.

24 A. Not that far away.

25 Q. On the morning of 7 July, as I say, you were walking to

1 work and you were at Euston station buying a cup of
2 coffee, you say in your statement, at 9.37 that morning.

3 A. It was approximately 9.35, yes.

4 Q. It's quite a precise time that you gave in that
5 statement. Is that because there was some way you had,
6 at the time, of knowing the exact time you were at
7 Euston or was it the best guess you could give then of
8 when you were at Euston?

9 A. It was the best guess.

10 Q. You describe in your statement that, while you were at
11 Euston, you were aware that there was confusion and
12 crowds of people who weren't able to get on to the
13 trains.

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. Presumably, that didn't directly concern you, because
16 you weren't there to get a train, just to buy a cup of
17 coffee?

18 A. The reason it didn't concern me is because, many times,
19 I'd been in the station and things break down and
20 sometimes you'd see people filing out in mass outside
21 the -- you know, where the trains are.

22 Q. Exactly. Were you aware at that time that anything
23 rather more unusual was taking place?

24 A. No.

25 Q. You left Euston station to carry on with your journey to

1 work. Is that right?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. You were walking down Endsleigh Street, yes?

4 A. Yes, I crossed the light. There's a shortcut in front
5 of the American Friends -- I don't remember the name of
6 the building, but it's across from Euston station, and
7 it connects directly, just about directly, with
8 Endsleigh Street.

9 Q. Were you walking in Endsleigh Street on the other side
10 of Euston Road, which is parallel to
11 Upper Woburn Place -- is that right -- or were you still
12 on the north side of Euston Road?

13 A. No, I crossed Euston Road, went through the pathway and
14 then took this shortcut up Endsleigh Street which leads
15 directly to Bedford Way --

16 Q. I see, yes, I think I --

17 A. -- past Tavistock Square.

18 Q. Yes. Is that where you were when you heard the noise of
19 the explosion?

20 A. When I heard the noise, I was a bit closer to the corner
21 of Tavistock Square and Endsleigh Street. I was on the
22 right side, not the side of Tavistock Square at the
23 time, and I was coming close to Tavistock Square.

24 Q. Is it a fair summary, you were in Endsleigh Street,
25 close to Tavistock Square, but you couldn't see the bus

1 at the time you heard the explosion?

2 A. No.

3 Q. No, you couldn't see the bus or, no, that's not right?

4 A. No, I couldn't see -- when I heard the explosion,

5 I could not see.

6 Q. When you did hear the explosion, what did you think at
7 the time, what did you think had happened?

8 A. As I mentioned in my statement -- I don't know if it's
9 here -- but the first thing that came to mind was

10 I thought it was a building being imploded, and

11 I believe I told DC Willis that I recalled, when I was

12 growing up in northern California, that many buildings

13 were imploded in the bay area, and it sounded like that,

14 because there had been some construction around not far

15 from Tavistock Square at the time, there was a lot of

16 construction, and I thought -- my first thought was that

17 it was a building maybe being imploded. I didn't think

18 it was something else.

19 Q. What did you do, having heard this noise?

20 A. Well, things moved very rapidly. The first thing that

21 I saw -- I mean, you're talking about a matter of

22 seconds. When I heard the explosion, I was very close

23 to Tavistock Square, and I crossed over the street

24 towards the left to go towards the sound because there

25 were many people walking at a quicker speed coming in my

1 direction, and there was also a woman, as I note in my
2 testimony, sitting on the ground crying, and I have to
3 say, frankly, my very first initial split-second
4 response, because I didn't know what it was, was not
5 that she was crying because of what we now know it was,
6 it was just -- it was becoming a very unusual situation
7 and a lot of people were on their mobile phones. So
8 I walked towards that direction to see what was going
9 on. I walked towards Tavistock Square going to the
10 left.

11 Q. Did there come a time when the scene of the explosion
12 came into your view?

13 A. Most definitely.

14 Q. Can you describe for us, please, what you saw?

15 A. Yes. I -- when I turned left into Tavistock Square,
16 I was carrying a cup of coffee and people were coming
17 towards me, and I -- the first thing is I smelled a very
18 terrible smell, it was smoke, and I could see the bus
19 already by then. The trees are very high at
20 Tavistock Square, but I could see because I was closer,
21 and I smelled a very terrible, fleshy smell -- that was
22 one of my first sensory responses -- and people were
23 coming at me, but people were leaving the scene, there
24 weren't that many people around, but I saw on the
25 ground -- which is a correction to my testimony, I think

1 they wrote "floor" throughout the testimony -- but I saw
2 on the ground just a carnage of debris. Body parts
3 were, you know, within feet of where I was standing.
4 One of the first things I saw was a twisted torso
5 with -- when I looked at one of the diagrams, the one
6 with the scene where the people may have been on the
7 ground with a red dot and the red bus.

8 Q. Can you just pause for a moment, please?

9 A. Yes, okay.

10 Q. It's just to give us a chance to get out the document
11 that you're looking at. Could we have on screen,
12 please, INQ -- [INQ10285-8]I see we have it already. Yes, do carry
13 on, please.

14 A. Yes. Do you see the two cars on the right side along
15 Tavistock Square?

16 Q. Yes, I think you were approaching from the direction of
17 where we see Woburn House. Is that right?

18 A. Yes, but I was on the side -- yes. I was sort of in the
19 middle of the road and on the side where the two
20 vehicles are parked.

21 Q. Yes, one behind another.

22 A. And approaching -- yes, approaching that and the other,
23 which -- I can't remember that vehicle, but approaching
24 that and where the first red dot is, where
25 Gladys Wundowa --

1 Q. Yes.

2 A. That doesn't come to my recollection. What comes to my
3 recollection is a little -- the first person that I saw,
4 or I thought I saw, was a white person whose torso did
5 not have any limbs and it was twisted and the hair
6 colour looked about like red, not the person that was
7 later described as laying there. I think that the
8 person Marie Hartley was a bit maybe further to the
9 square is what I remember.

10 Q. Ms Riak-Akuei --

11 A. And that's one of the first things I saw, yes.

12 Q. -- let me ask you about that. The person you've
13 described with the twisted body who was missing their
14 legs, were they lying face up or face down on the road?

15 A. Face -- it seemed face up, but it was hard to say. The
16 body was twisted and it was a print coloured dress,
17 I think, and I just saw lots of hair and the torso.

18 Q. Are you quite sure that it was a female casualty and not
19 a male?

20 A. Yes, female, it seemed, their hair -- unless -- it was
21 a print piece of clothing and it looked like it might
22 have been a dress, and the hair was lengthy and orange
23 in colour.

24 Q. Is it possible that her hair was a little bit darker
25 than that? Indeed, is it possible that she was someone

1 who was Bangladeshi with slightly coloured skin?

2 A. No, no.

3 Q. I'll leave my questions on that subject, then, and ask
4 you about someone else, if I may.

5 Before, in fact, I do, one thing I didn't ask you
6 before is this: doing the best you can, how long was it
7 between the time when you heard the explosion and the
8 time when you arrived at the scene as you've described?

9 A. It would be a pure estimate, but it seemed to me to be
10 less than a minute.

11 Q. I see. Now, you've described in your statement seeing
12 and helping a number of different casualties. I'm not
13 going to ask you about all of them. Mainly, I want to
14 ask you about two of them. They're the people you've
15 described, the African lady, whom you describe as female
16 2, who we think was Gladys Wundowa, and the man you
17 describe as male 2, the gentleman who was trapped on the
18 bus.

19 Let me ask you first, if I may, about him. I think
20 it's right to say that you did first see him when he was
21 still trapped in the bus. Is that right?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. How soon after you arrived at the scene did you go over
24 and see him?

25 A. I can't remember that. Things were moving very quickly.

1 My first response was to find whoever is alive, whoever
2 seemed like they were -- you know, to find people,
3 because the debris and the carnage was so -- it was
4 just -- you couldn't walk anywhere without there being
5 something on the ground, and I heard him wailing, and
6 I can't remember exactly how soon after, I remember
7 going to somebody lying on the ground and helping
8 another person with bandages. We were looking for
9 scissors, and I looked over and saw a man, which
10 I described in my testimony, holding up his head.

11 Q. Yes. I wanted to ask you about that. So when you went
12 over to this man -- and can I tell you that we now know
13 that the man's name, the man who was in the bus that is,
14 as Sam Ly, a man who was Vietnamese or his parents were
15 Vietnamese? There was already someone else with him
16 when you got there.

17 A. Okay, yes.

18 Q. You've described that man as wearing a trenchcoat.

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. We've heard other evidence about that and, in fact,
21 we've even got a picture here, although you, I'm afraid,
22 don't have it, but we can see, we have a picture which
23 shows the man in the trenchcoat holding Sam Ly's head.

24 A. Okay.

25 Q. When you got there, how close up to the bus did you

1 actually go?

2 A. If I recall, there was a lot of debris on the ground
3 right below and this man was standing there, I believe,
4 on part of that debris. This is just my memory now,
5 five years later. We couldn't -- he was very high up,
6 and this man had to reach his hands very high to hold
7 his head, it looked like the top of the bus kind of
8 fell, had fallen down to the first level --

9 Q. Yes.

10 A. -- and he was very close to the bus --

11 Q. Did you go --

12 A. -- like within maybe a foot. I'm sorry?

13 Q. Did you go and stand with him, then?

14 A. I saw that he -- this person was bleeding profusely, and
15 the man holding up his head was affected by that, the
16 blood was coming down in large streams. By then, I had
17 gloves from one of the ambulatory people who had a large
18 green pack with some supplies, and I had gloves on, and
19 I went over and said that I would relieve him, because
20 he seemed like he was there for a while, and he seemed
21 a bit in distress now.

22 Q. So is it right that you took over from him for a period
23 and held Sam Ly's head yourself?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. Can you give us any idea of how long it was that you

1 held his head?

2 A. It could have been a couple of minutes, around that
3 time.

4 Q. During this time, was Sam Ly still conscious?

5 A. He was conscious, and he was moaning. And he was --
6 started to scream.

7 Q. Were you able to talk to him so that he could understand
8 you?

9 A. I tried, but I don't know if he was conscious enough to
10 know what I was saying.

11 Q. Did you simply hold his head for a period of two minutes
12 or so while the other gentleman put his gloves on and,
13 when he put the gloves on, did he then take over again
14 from you?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. Did you stay there once he'd taken the head back?

17 A. No. I moved on.

18 Q. You describe in your statement that Sam Ly was given
19 oxygen and placed on a drip. Was that at this point
20 while he was still in the bus or later after he'd been
21 taken out of the bus?

22 A. No, it was later. It seemed to have taken a while for
23 the fire crews to come, because they were needed to
24 actually pull him out, because there was too much debris
25 around the bus, and he was up too high, and I think

1 that's why this man was standing as long as he was to
2 hold his head until -- because it looked like his neck
3 was at the level of the seal of the bus, just hanging
4 over. We couldn't get to him, we couldn't -- yes.

5 Q. You talk about the fire crews extricating Sam Ly from
6 the bus. We've heard some evidence about that already.
7 Were you there when he was taken out of the bus?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. We've heard that he was -- once the fire crews had
10 removed the metalwork that was trapping him, we've heard
11 that he was taken out and placed on a stretcher made out
12 of a table or a door. Do you remember that?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. Then carried from the bus through the archway into the
15 British Medical Association building?

16 A. Yes. Now, I didn't actually observe him being carried
17 in, because there was another incident going on at the
18 time that I was attending to.

19 Q. Perhaps I should have asked you this earlier. You did
20 say in your witness statement that you were a first
21 aider at that time.

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. Was that one of the reasons why you volunteered your
24 help on that day?

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. You say that you were attending to someone else when
2 Sam Ly was taken out of the bus. Did you see him again
3 later?

4 A. Sam Ly I saw later, yes.

5 Q. Can you tell --

6 A. In the inside, yes.

7 Q. Was it inside the main -- the building of the BMA or in
8 the courtyard?

9 A. I believe I saw them briefly moving him inside and we
10 were all called at that point, by that point, to go
11 inside. But I was also concerned about somebody else
12 who was at the top of the bus prior to and during the
13 time that the Fire Brigade was trying to extricate
14 people from the bus.

15 Q. Yes, and did you -- when you saw Sam Ly later on, would
16 this be when he was given oxygen and placed on a drip?

17 A. Yes, but I must have seen him before because, when he
18 was lying in the BMA building, he was screaming a lot
19 that he was going to die, he kept screaming that he was
20 going to die and he needed painkillers. That was before
21 they put the oxygen on him, and that I did hear and that
22 I did see.

23 Q. Was this at a time when you were actually attending to
24 him yourself or did you see it from a distance while you
25 were looking after someone else?

1 A. Right now, I can't remember. There were too many things
2 going on, I can't remember that right now.

3 Q. We do understand that it's difficult to remember at this
4 length of time, particularly when, as you say, you were
5 dealing with a number of different people.

6 Is there anything else you remember about Sam Ly
7 that day, Ms Riak-Akuei?

8 A. I remember he was bleeding profusely. I remember he was
9 very agitated. As I said, he was yelling. There was
10 a point after they put the oxygen that he seemed to have
11 gone a bit more quiet, but you could hear him -- you
12 could hear him moaning, he was still moaning.

13 Q. He was eventually put in an ambulance and taken away.
14 Were you there when that happened?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. I don't know if you know this, but he sadly died about
17 a week later.

18 A. I know, yes.

19 Q. The other person I wanted to ask you about was the
20 African lady you describe and you refer to in your
21 statement as female 2. Now, her name was Gladys Wundowa
22 and you will recall that, when you were looking at the
23 plan of Tavistock Square, you saw the red mark linked to
24 her name. Now, it may be that you didn't see her when
25 she was lying out in the street, because she also was

1 taken in due course into the courtyard of the BMA.

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. Was it only after she had been taken into the courtyard
4 that you saw her?

5 A. At this stage, that's what I remember, and that was
6 a bit confusing when I saw the printed testimony.
7 I remember, when the air ambulance came, there were
8 several of us that had to transport her from the table
9 on to the stretcher, and I remember this happened quite
10 a while after the incident and after I had been there.
11 It was inside the courtyard, not inside the building,
12 but inside the courtyard. We were asked all to move
13 rather rapidly inside, it was drizzling, and I heard
14 later it was because they were going to do some type of
15 test explosion, I don't know, but it was in the
16 courtyard, it was off to the right, and I remember the
17 air ambulance giving us very strict instructions about
18 how to move her and especially about her hair, and she
19 was still alive at that time.

20 Q. Gladys Wundowa did also, sadly, die herself. Were you
21 with her when she died?

22 A. I can't remember now, but I remember leaving after the
23 air ambulance lifted her, because there was no need for
24 me to be there. I moved on to somebody else. I do know
25 that she passed away, in part because somebody I work

1 with at UCL knew her from many, many years and came to
2 me within that week to tell me that that was the person
3 that he knew and that she passed away.

4 Q. We know, Ms Riak-Akuei, that she was taken from the road
5 into the courtyard using a makeshift stretcher. In
6 fact, I think it was a window frame from the bus. You
7 have described her being moved, I think, from that on to
8 a different stretcher. Is that right?

9 A. Yes, because the air ambulance finally arrived and they
10 had a stretcher and they were concerned because the
11 stretcher, I guess, expands and they were concerned that
12 her hair was going to be caught in that area, and also
13 that something might happen to her if we moved her
14 improperly, and there were several people and we all
15 moved her together onto the stretcher.

16 Q. Do you know why they were moving her onto a stretcher?

17 A. Well, presumably to take her to the hospital.

18 Q. Might it have been because they were concerned that she
19 had a neck injury and that that stretcher would provide
20 better support for her head?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. In any event, you didn't see them taking her anywhere,
23 is that right?

24 A. I mean, right now, it's hard to remember what happened
25 within the seconds after we moved her because I moved on

1 to somebody else.

2 Q. I see.

3 A. But I do remember air ambulance taking people with
4 stretchers out of the courtyard.

5 Q. You are not sure -- you can't say that they took her out
6 of the courtyard. Is that right?

7 A. I can't remember at this point actually seeing them
8 taking her away, no.

9 Q. What you do say about her while you were with her is
10 that she was slipping in and out of consciousness and
11 that she had a drip, which you held.

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. Do you recall anything else about her condition in that
14 time that you were with her then?

15 A. I just remember that intense moment of her suffering,
16 I remember her physically suffering, that's what
17 I remember.

18 MR ANDREW O'CONNOR: I see, thank you very much,
19 Ms Riak-Akuei. Those are all the questions I have for
20 you. It may be that others have questions for you now.
21 Thank you.

22 LADY JUSTICE HALLETT: Mr Saunders?

23 Questions by MR SAUNDERS

24 MR SAUNDERS: Ms Riak-Akuei, may I just ask you a couple of
25 questions, please? You've described the firemen who had

1 come to assist the Oriental or Japanese man from the
2 bus.

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. How long after the explosion did you recall them being
5 there and assisting on the bus?

6 A. I can't remember how long, but I do remember -- and
7 I thought I made this statement to DC Willis -- that it
8 seemed like quite a while before they got there -- and
9 I do remember saying that -- but for what seemed like
10 a long time -- and it may be because of the incident,
11 things moving so quickly -- that the only paramedic-type
12 people on the scene, the only people who were coming to
13 the scene, other than the rest of us who were not
14 professionally occupied, to deal with those crises was
15 people wearing green uniforms who brought a couple of
16 large, green supply bags.

17 The Fire Brigade didn't come immediately. They came
18 after we had been holding up Sam Ly's head. Once they
19 did arrive, they moved very quickly, but they were not
20 immediately on the scene, no.

21 Q. Can I press you? As all of us here appreciate, this is
22 over five years ago now, but can you help us as to how
23 long -- whilst you say it was -- it seemed
24 a considerable time, can you help us with how long that
25 may have been?

1 A. It's very hard to say, but it seemed to me like it could
2 be anywhere between 15 minutes and an hour, somewhere
3 between -- in that period of time, 15 minutes to
4 45 minutes to an hour. It was not -- we're not talking
5 about several minutes. We're not talking about less
6 than 15 minutes. It seemed to me a longer period of
7 time because, from the time I saw some body parts to the
8 time that we were moving people on to makeshift
9 platforms and going to Sam Ly's assistance, they were
10 not there yet.

11 Q. In one of your --

12 A. That must have been -- to my mind -- I'm sorry.

13 Q. That's all right. This is the difficulty when we have
14 it over the videolink. But you mentioned in one of your
15 earlier answers that you saw somebody in green or
16 turning up with green bags. Did that appear to you to
17 be medical supplies that was arriving?

18 A. In the bag were a lot of supplies. There were a lot of
19 sterile supplies and one of the problems that I remember
20 feeling frustrated about is I didn't know what they
21 were, because they looked like they're being used by
22 people who are in that profession, and I was even asked
23 by one of the persons in green where the scissors were,
24 and I needed scissors, but I had no idea where in that
25 bag the scissors were. The bag was quite large, and

1 there were no labels that I could see, you know,
2 identifying what they were.
3 I'm used to -- I work in a laboratory and we're used
4 to having a small first aid kit about a foot wide by
5 maybe 3 inches high, and everything is quite clearly
6 labelled and I couldn't find things so quickly in there
7 and I couldn't find the scissors.
8 And somebody in the green actually came to me. So
9 it was emergency supplies, but I had a difficult time
10 finding what I needed in there --
11 Q. Can I ask you again the same --
12 A. -- as quickly as I needed it.
13 Q. Can I ask you again the same question I asked? When
14 these medical supplies arrived, can you help us as to
15 how long after the explosion this would have been?
16 A. When the green supply bags were there and the people in
17 green came?
18 Q. That's right.
19 A. That was very quickly. Almost within a few minutes of
20 the time that I arrived they were there.
21 Q. The people you've described in green, did they have any
22 writing, as it were, on their overalls? Can you
23 identify who they would have been?
24 A. I can't remember now, I can't remember.
25 Q. Can I move on now to a separate topic? You've described

1 seeing Sam Ly on the bus. I represent a family whose
2 daughter was seated directly behind Sam Ly.

3 A. Okay.

4 Q. If you're looking at the documents, you'll see it as, if
5 yours are marked the same as ours, page [INQ10285-7].

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. You see that Sam Ly, because he survived initially, is
8 the orange mark.

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. I represent the family of the lady that's behind him
11 Shyanu Parathasangary.

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. You were obviously in that vicinity for some time, but
14 you don't make any mention of this female. So that you
15 know, her parents are Sri Lankan and she was
16 dark-skinned. But you don't mention seeing her at all,
17 is that right?

18 A. I don't remember -- I don't have any recollection even
19 within the week, I don't remember anybody in that
20 vicinity maybe because I was focused on him, I don't
21 know.

22 Q. It's not intended to be critical of you at all, may
23 I say, because obviously you have just said within the
24 week. Your statement was dated the 14th, so within
25 seven days you were making this statement to

1 Detective Constable Willis.

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. We, on behalf of the family, take from that that there
4 was no sign of any life from that young lady. Otherwise
5 you would have been aware.

6 A. I'm sorry?

7 Q. I was just going to make the observation you're nodding,
8 I think, in agreement with what I'm putting to you.

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. Thank you very much indeed. You were about to add
11 something. I hope I didn't stop you then.

12 A. I just wanted to add that there was another person --
13 and it's in my statement -- who was also alive, trying
14 to get out, and I was focusing also on that person.

15 Q. In fairness to you, in the course of your statement you
16 mention six people you had dealings with or observed,
17 and the one that you're talking about now is an Indian
18 gentleman, but it was clearly a male who was in his
19 20s --

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. -- but more towards the centre of the bus.

22 A. Yes.

23 MR SAUNDERS: Thank you very much indeed for your help this
24 afternoon.

25 LADY JUSTICE HALLETT: Ms Boyd?

1 Questions by MS BOYD

2 MS BOYD: Just a couple of questions, please, on behalf of
3 the London Fire Brigade. You were asked by Mr Saunders
4 a moment ago your estimate as to when the Fire Brigade
5 arrived at the bus to help Sam Ly. You said that you
6 thought it was anything between 15 minutes and as much
7 as an hour. Do you remember?

8 A. Yes, I remember saying that.

9 Q. Can I just ask you a couple of questions to see if you
10 can revisit that timing. I know it's very difficult,
11 but there is evidence that one fire appliance arrived
12 with a crew of two firemen within about five minutes of
13 the explosion and another two fire appliances arrived at
14 the scene at about 10.00. Now, the two firemen --

15 A. Okay.

16 Q. The two firemen who arrived first helped carry four
17 casualties from the road into the BMA building before
18 they then assisted Sam Ly at the bus. Do you remember
19 seeing any firemen in the road assisting with those
20 casualties?

21 A. At this very moment, no, I don't.

22 Q. Because they say that, having assisted those casualties
23 in the road, these two firemen then went on to the bus
24 and, before they got to Sam, they actually helped take
25 another female casualty off the bus and another male

1 casualty off the bus. Did you see that?

2 A. I remember there was a lot of commotion, but I do not
3 remember that. I remember just focusing on this man,
4 and I have to just say that it was a very traumatic --
5 very traumatic, tumultuous moment where many things were
6 happening and it was almost like being in a daze, but
7 you're moving sort of subconsciously through what you're
8 supposed to do.

9 So I'm just saying I don't remember, under those
10 conditions, seeing them, but I do remember when they
11 tried to pull the debris from the bus to be able to get
12 him out, I do remember that.

13 Q. Certainly no criticism of you in describing giving your
14 best recollection of events and the timing. It must be
15 very difficult. So as far as you're concerned, you
16 can't be absolutely sure about that timing?

17 A. No, I can't. It's a very wide estimate.

18 MS BOYD: Thank you very much.

19 A. Thank you.

20 LADY JUSTICE HALLETT: Any other questions?

21 Mrs Riak-Akuei, can you hear me? I'm

22 Lady Justice Hallett, the coroner conducting the
23 inquests. Thank you for agreeing to --

24 A. Yes, Justice Hallett.

25 LADY JUSTICE HALLETT: Thank you for agreeing to relive the

1 traumatic events of that day and thank you for going to
2 so much trouble to fit in with my court hearing day.
3 I think you had to get up at an extremely early time.
4 Finally, may I express the gratitude of all of us
5 here for everything that you did to help the injured on
6 that day. I hope it's of some comfort to you to know
7 that a number of them did survive and have given
8 evidence before me. Thank you very much.

9 A. Thank you very much.

10 MR ANDREW O'CONNOR: My Lady, that concludes the business
11 for today.

12 LADY JUSTICE HALLETT: Thank you. As far as tomorrow is
13 concerned, I did suggest to Mr Smith -- I don't know if
14 it's been arranged -- that we sit even earlier tomorrow.

15 MR ANDREW O'CONNOR: People have been informed that it's
16 a 9.30 start.

17 LADY JUSTICE HALLETT: Is any counsel present intending to
18 ask that they be allowed to make submissions on this
19 issue? Because obviously I need to do some timetabling.

20 MR SAUNDERS: Can I assist with that because Ms Gallagher
21 will be here tomorrow. If submissions aren't in, I know
22 that they were very much in final draft when she left
23 just before the break, and she has been in touch with,
24 obviously, Ms Sheff, myself, Mr Coltart. It's unclear
25 at the moment whether Mr Patterson will be here, but we

1 think on behalf of the families there will be a very
2 similar approach. So I think either she, or it may in
3 fact be Mr O'Connor, is coming to address you tomorrow.

4 LADY JUSTICE HALLETT: I'm very grateful, Mr Saunders.
5 I would appreciate it, if there is unanimity of approach
6 from the families, then obviously I would rather not
7 hear repeated submissions and obviously you are going to
8 some lengths to make sure that I don't.

9 One of my problems is I'm afraid that, not realising
10 we would have to deal with this matter tomorrow, I have
11 got other professional commitments from about 12.30
12 onwards, so I'm very tight for time.

13 MR SAUNDERS: Can I say, and I hope you will excuse us,
14 I know I, for one, will not be here, so I won't be
15 delaying you at all, and I know that the submissions,
16 may I say, having read them over lunch, are fairly
17 succinct and very much to the point.

18 LADY JUSTICE HALLETT: Well, it's an important matter and if
19 I can't complete it in the time for my other
20 commitments, either my other commitments have to go or
21 I will have to continue the submissions next week. But
22 let's hope we don't come to that.

23 MR SAUNDERS: I will pass on that message when I speak to
24 Ms Gallagher after we've risen.

25 LADY JUSTICE HALLETT: She's never been less than focused so

1 far, so I'm sure that she won't ...

2 MR SAUNDERS: Not at all.

3 LADY JUSTICE HALLETT: 9.30 tomorrow, please.

4 (3.52 pm)

5 (The inquests adjourned until 9.30 am the following day)

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