

TITLE: Johannesburg fire: 'Others jumped too, but they didn't make it'

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Article Summary

A fire broke out in a building in Johannesburg that was home to migrants, resulting in several deaths and displacing many people. Mussi Hamissa, a Tanzanian resident in the building, escaped by jumping out of a window with his wife and baby. Unfortunately, not everyone who attempted to jump made it, and there were many casualties. Hamissa expressed his guilt for not being able to save others and explained that his family lost all their possessions and important documents in the fire. Sphiwe Ngcobo, another resident, had two children trapped inside the building during the fire. She managed to rescue her five-year-old, but her two-year-old's whereabouts were unknown, leaving her desperate for closure. A group of around 50 people affected by the fire were waiting for updates from officials while sleeping on the pavement near the scene.

Article Analysis

1. Does the article give a political economy contextual analysis of the event?

No, the article does not provide a political economy contextual analysis of the event. It focuses more on the personal experiences and stories of the individuals affected by the fire.

2. What according to the article, is/are the root cause/s of the event?

The article does not explicitly state the root cause of the fire. It mainly focuses on the experiences of the residents who were affected by the fire.

3. Does the article present evidence of complicity between Johannesburg councillor representatives and organised criminal syndicates that took over the control of the building?

There is no evidence presented in the article regarding complicity between Johannesburg councillor representatives and organized criminal syndicates.

4. Does the article present evidence of NGOs (like SERI) engaging with organised criminal syndicates that took over the control of the building, on behalf of and in the interests of their clients (i.e. the tenants)?

There is no evidence presented in the article regarding NGOs engaging with organized criminal syndicates on behalf of the tenants.

5. Does the article present potential solutions to the occupation by tenants of a hijacked building that has degenerated into a slum, in respect of: a) law enforcement; b) economic development/social upliftment; c) the provision of alternative accommodation; and, the tenants' 'right to the city' (i.e. their right to live in decent circumstances close to livelihood opportunities)?

The article does not present specific potential solutions for the occupation of the building. It mainly focuses on the immediate aftermath of the fire and the personal experiences of the individuals affected.

6. Does the article emphasize the conflictual relationship between city officials and the NGO SERI (and other NGOs) regarding different interpretations of the rights of tenants in terms of the law and specifically in terms of the PIE Act?

The article does not emphasize any conflictual relationship between city officials and the NGO SERI or other NGOs. It does not mention any specific disagreements or different interpretations of tenant rights.

Critical Analysis

Overall, this news article appears to be written in a factual and objective manner, without overt biases or subjective language. The author, Samantha Granville, provides a detailed account of the fire in Johannesburg and interviews individuals affected by the incident to give first-hand perspectives.

However, there are a few instances where the language may introduce subjective elements. For example, in describing Mussi Hamissa's experience, the author states that he had a "rough landing" and is "quite bruised". While these statements may be true, they are subjective assessments of the situation and could have been presented in a more neutral manner.

Additionally, the author includes Mr. Hamissa's emotional response to the tragedy, describing his eyes "welling up" and his statement that the guilt will stay with him forever. Although these statements provide insight into the emotional impact of the event, they could be seen as sympathetic towards Mr. Hamissa's experience, potentially introducing a bias.

Furthermore, the author includes a quote from Mr. Hamissa stating that "the government should help us because we lost all of our things," which could be seen as positioning the

government as responsible for providing assistance. While this may be a fair perspective, the use of this quote without providing counter perspectives or government responses can introduce a potential bias.

Overall, while there are a few instances where the language used by the author could be seen as subjective or potentially biased, the majority of the article remains factual and objective in presenting the accounts of those affected by the fire.

Contradiction Analysis

One possible contradiction in the article is in Mr Hamissa's account of others jumping from the building. He states that "people started copying us. They jumped too, but they didn't make it," implying that others who jumped did not survive. However, later in the article, it mentions that Ms Ngcobo's five-year-old son was carried out by a neighbor, indicating that at least one other person who jumped was able to survive. This creates a contradiction in the number of people who were able to successfully jump from the building.