

ALL MUSLIMS AND MUSLIM DOCTORS SHOULD SEND HIM THEIR CONDOLENCES AND MAKE DU'AS FOR HIM

Leicester fire deaths: Father pays tribute to victims



Dr Muhammad Taufiq Al Sattar (Neurosurgeon): "I deeply miss my beautiful wife and three beautiful children"

The man who lost four members of his family in a Leicester house fire has said he "deeply misses" them.

Dr Muhammad Taufiq Al Sattar said: "I deeply miss my beautiful wife and three beautiful children. "What has happened has happened, and nothing can be reversed, but I hope justice prevails and in future, this should not happen to any family in the UK."

Police have arrested five people in connection with the fire. The arrests, of three women aged 27, 120 and 19, and two men aged 49 and 19, were made on Saturday afternoon. The fire took hold shortly after midnight on Friday in Wood Hill with neighbours rushing to try to alert the family, named by the local mosque as Shehnila Taufiq, her teenage sons Jamal and Bilal and daughter Zainab, 19. 'Very supportive'



Police said there could be a link between the death of Antoin Akpom and the house fire, although no-one killed in the home had anything to do with attack. Firefighters found them dead in upstairs bedrooms.

Speaking at the Jame Mosque where he worshipped with his family, Dr Taufiq Al Sattar, a neurosurgeon who works in Dublin, went on to thank the people of Leicester. "The people of Leicester have been very supportive," he said.

"A real big thanks to the police department in Leicestershire for the good work and the media for being patient, understanding the pain I'm going through at present. "I'm also thankful to the Jame Mosque. They made me feel that, despite losing my immediate entire family, the entire community in Leicester is family to me. Thank you very much." Before addressing the media, Dr Taufiq Al Sattar spoke to about 1,500 worshippers in the mosque which is just yards from the home where his family died.

Police said they could not rule out connecting the fire with the death of Antoin Akpom who died after an assault on Thursday in Kent Street, about a mile from Wood Hill. But they added there was no evidence anyone who lived in the house was involved in the street attack. 'My best friend' Tributes have been paid to Mr Akpom, a coach and former player at Leicester Nirvana FC, by family and friends.

The club held a minute silence at games today, with more planned for tomorrow. His sister Lianne Murray said Mr Akpom planned to train as a teacher and worked at Sparkenhoe Primary School in Leicester.

"He was my baby brother, he was my best friend, and my right arm," she added. "Everybody said he was a version of me. He was always on a positive vibe. "He had this laugh, he lit up the room. I know that sounds a cliché but it's true." 'Dynamic and fast moving' The Jame Mosque declared three days of mourning with special prayers held earlier for Jamal and Bilal with further prayers for their mum and sister planned for Sunday. Detectives have carried out house to house enquires in both cases and continue to appeal for witnesses. Assistant Chief Constable for Leicestershire Police, Roger Bannister, speaking at a press conference, said there was "every reason to believe" the fire was started deliberately but a cause had not been established. "It's a dynamic and fast moving inquiry," he added.

"It's difficult to give any indications how close we are to making arrests but some of those inquiries are promising." Speaking of the families of both victims he said: "I sit here before you today appealing for anyone quite simply to come forward. Two families have been absolutely devastated, whole communities have been rocked."