**STATEMENT OF HIRAL VAIDYA**

 HELLO, MY NAME IS HIRAL VAIDYA.

I AM MANANT’S WIFE. I ALSO AM SISTER IN LAW, DAUGHTER IN LAW AND AUNT TO THE MOST WONDERFUL FAMILY I HAVE EVER KNOWN, AND AM BLESSED TO BE PART OF THEIR LIVES.  WHEN MANANT AND I RECEIVED THE HORRIBLE NEWS THAT OUR ENTIRE FAMILY WAS ON THAT BOEING 737 MAX8 PLANE, WE WERE IN SHOCK. FRIENDS AND EXTENDED FAMILY MEMBERS TRIED TO COMFORT US, BUT NOTHING COULD STOP OUR ENDLESS GRIEF. OF COURSE, OUR FAMILY WILL NEVER BE THE SAME.

MANANT AND I, ALONG WITH OUR TWO CHILDREN, KNEW WE HAD TO GO TO ETHIOPIA TO GATHER THE REMAINS OF OUR LOVED ONES. WE WANTED TO TAKE THEM TO OUR HOMELAND IN INDIA SO WE COULD DO PROPER RITUALS, YET THERE WAS NOTHING LEFT OF THEM. WE HAD NOTHING TO CREMATE. WE WANT THEIR SOULS TO REST IN PEACE, BUT WE CANNOT HAVE PEACE IN THE WAY THAT OUR LOVED ONES DIED IN THE HORRIFIC TRAGEDY. AND IN THE WAY THAT NO REMAINS WERE PROPERLY PRESERVED OR RECORDED.

OUR FAMILY STILL STAYS UP NIGHTS. WE CRY. WE HOLD EACH OTHER TIGHTER. WE CHERISH EVERY MOMENT TOGETHER. SOMEHOW, WE THINK THEY WILL RETURN, BUT WE KNOW THEY WILL NOT. WE HAVE NO CLOSURE. NO PEACE. NO ANSWERS.

WE PRAY THAT SOMEHOW, ONE DAY, WE WILL GET SOME SORT OF CLOSURE FROM THIS TERRIBLE TRAGEDY THAT WILL BE WITH OUR FAMILY INTO ETERNITY.