Beat: News

A Man Who Stood Before the Flames

Refused to Stop Calling His Wife's Name

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USPA NEWS - When the fire swept through Wang Fuk Court, a seventy-one-year-old man courageously rushed toward the burning tower, pointing upward with a heartfelt cry that resonated deeply: “My wife is in there.” The powerful image of him standing on the roadside with his arms raised, overcome with emotion, became an enduring symbol of hope and resilience in the face of Hong Kong’s deadliest tragedy in decades.

He was en route to collect his granddaughter when he noticed the smoke. By the time he arrived at the building, flames had engulfed the residence he had shared with his wife for their entire lives. Days later, she remained unaccounted for, one of dozens missing, although the man intuitively understood the reality from the moment he witnessed the inferno.

What exacerbated his grief was the knowledge he possessed. As a former maintenance supervisor, he had identified the hazard posed by the subpar insulation and flammable netting utilized in the renovation. He had taken every precaution to safeguard their own unit, but he was powerless to prevent the inherent dangers already embedded in the walls. Officials later corroborated his worst fears: the materials he had warned about had intensified the horrific blaze.

In the background, firefighters move with restraint, as the smoke was surging from the shattered windows. The man stands motionless, paralyzed by an unbearable grief. A police officer sets a blue chair beside him with quiet consideration. The distraught man sits, his gaze riveted on the charred remains of their home, whispering into the rising smoke: "I will come find you."

His whisper became the reverberation of a city in grief, and the reminder that behind every headline is a love story suddenly, and violently rent asunder.

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