



SURVIVAL FACTORS ATTACHMENT

Passenger Interview Transcripts

Louisville, NY

HWY23FH005

(77 pages)

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD

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Investigation of:

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FATAL CRASH OF A FREIGHTLINER BOX
TRUCK & BUS IN LOUISVILLE,
NEW YORK ON JANUARY 28, 2023

Accident No.: HWY23FH005

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Interview of: BALTAZAR JIMENEZ-LOPEZ, Passenger

Tuesday,
January 31, 2023

APPEARANCES:

RONALD KAMINSKI, Investigator
National Transportation Safety Board

JOHN HUMM, Investigator
National Transportation Safety Board

JAMES EDELSTEIN, Interpreter

JUAN GAONA-BENITEZ, Interpreter

I N D E X

ITEM

PAGE

Interview of Baltazar Jimenez-Lopez:

By Mr. Kaminski

4

I N T E R V I E W

1
2 MR. KAMINSKI: Today's date is January 31st, 2023. My name
3 is Ronald Kaminski with the NTSB. I'm here with John Humm of the
4 NTSB, and also James Edelstein and Juan Gaona-Benitez, who are the
5 interpreters, and we're going to be talking to Baltazar Jimenez-
6 Lopez.

INTERVIEW OF BALTAZAR JIMENEZ-LOPEZ

7
8 BY MR. KAMINSKI:

9 Q. And his date of birth is?

10 A. [REDACTED].

11 Q. And approximate height and weight?

12 A. [REDACTED]

13 Q. Okay. And if you could tell us where he was --

14 A. Right here in the middle aisle.

15 Q. And who was he seated next to?

16 A. He just knows him by the nickname.

17 Q. Antonio Reyes?

18 A. No. He said he's not sure. It's just the nickname is all he
19 knows.

20 Q. Does he remember anybody in front?

21 A. Raul Martinez was in front of him.

22 Q. Okay.

23 A. He said Jonathan and Oscar were behind him. No, behind him.
24 He says behind him right there.

25 Q. Right. So he was in the aisle?

1 MR. GAONA-BENITEZ: Yes, but there's -- we have two
2 Jonathan's.

3 MR. HUMM: Oh, okay.

4 MR. GAONA-BENITEZ: One Jonathan passed away.

5 MR. HUMM: Yes.

6 MR. GAONA-BENITEZ: The -- Jonathan Lopez-Rodriguez, because
7 Jonathan Hernandez-Gomez passed away.

8 BY MR. KAMINSKI:

9 A. Andy was behind him.

10 Q. Was Jonathan in the window seat or no?

11 A. All right. He says Andy Vera-Leon was in the window. He
12 always rides in the window.

13 Q. Andy --

14 A. Andy Vera-Leon.

15 Q. Oh, yes, yes. Okay. And does he remember anyone else?

16 A. All right. Jesus -- he said there's two Jesus. All right,
17 Jonathan Hernandez-Gomez.

18 Q. Was?

19 A. Sitting beside him over here.

20 Q. Window, aisle?

21 A. Jonathan was in the window and Jesus, which would have been
22 Jesus Lopez-Lopez, because he passed away.

23 Q. Was sitting next to him?

24 A. Yes, was sitting next to him.

25 Q. Okay. And if you can just tell us where -- what he remembers

1 about the crash?

2 A. He said he was in the hallway seat, drinking his coffee
3 because they had just pulled out. And so he raised his head up
4 and he saw the lights of the truck coming. He said that the bus
5 was in the -- in its own lane and he said that the driver was
6 driving slow, because he doesn't drive fast. He said after he saw
7 the lights, he just felt the hit. He said once the bus stopped,
8 he started checking himself.

9 Q. And where did he end up after?

10 A. He said he was still in his seat. And he said he had Jesus
11 on top of him.

12 Q. So he still remained in the same seat?

13 A. Yes, he remained in the seat as Jesus ended up on top of him.
14 Jesus was the one who ended up pinned.

15 Q. Okay. Anything else?

16 A. He said after he checked himself -- Jonathan is his nephew --
17 and he said Jonathan are you okay. And that would be Jonathan
18 Lopez-Rodriguez. And he told him let's get out of the bus. And
19 he said in his mind he kept on thinking in accidents, gas is
20 always flowing out, and he was worried the bus was going to
21 explode.

22 Q. And how did they get out?

23 A. He said he jumped out the window. Where the whole trunk of
24 the bus was missing, he said that's where they got out. He said
25 he asked his nephew to move because they have to get out. And

1 since he was just kind of making noises, he said he just moved to
2 him to the side and got out.

3 Q. Was Jonathan his nephew?

4 A. Yes. Jonathan Lopez-Rodriguez is his nephew.

5 Q. Right.

6 A. Jonathan Hernandez-Gomez was the one that passed away.

7 Q. Right.

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. Okay.

10 A. There's two different Jonathan's.

11 Q. Yes, all right.

12 MR. HUMM: But the guy that was pinned is who he moved to the
13 side, right?

14 MR. GAONA-BENITEZ: Yes.

15 MR. HUMM: Yes.

16 MR. GAONA-BENITEZ: Because the --

17 MR. HUMM: Because he was with --

18 MR. GAONA-BENITEZ: The guy he was sitting next to, Jesus
19 Lopez-Lopez, who was pinned, and he ended -- Jesus Lopez-Lopez
20 ended up on top of him.

21 BY MR. KAMINSKI:

22 Q. Okay, got it. Okay. And then what kind of injuries --

23 A. He said just like glass shavings.

24 Q. Glass cuts?

25 A. Yes. He said he grabbed his book bag and set it where there

1 was a lot of glass so that he could get out. That's why he
2 doesn't have any cuts. He said his chest hurts because he hit the
3 seat.

4 Q. He hit the seat back?

5 A. He said that was the only thing. And then he said once his
6 body cooled down, he has a pain in his back.

7 Q. Lower back, upper?

8 A. He said up like right here, it hurts in his chest, it hurts
9 in the back.

10 Q. And did he go to any hospital?

11 A. He said just EMS.

12 Q. Did he go to the hospital, or does he plan on going to the
13 hospital?

14 A. He said they took him last time.

15 Q. To what hospital?

16 A. He said it's somewhere here down the road, about 20 minutes.
17 I can make a phone call.

18 Q. Okay.

19 A. Where our other guy, Gregorio, is in the hospital.

20 Q. Right.

21 A. I think Syracuse.

22 MR. EDELSTEIN: St. John's, I think.

23 MR. GAONA-BENITEZ: Oh, okay. Yes, where he's at.

24 MR. EDELSTEIN: St. Joe's, I mean, I think.

25 MR. GAONA-BENITEZ: I can call and find out.

1 MR. KAMINSKI: But the hospital is not in Weedsport here,
2 it's --

3 MR. EDELSTEIN: No, no, no, it's in Syracuse.

4 MR. KAMINSKI: Oh, okay.

5 MR. EDELSTEIN: Like down -- you know, go down this road and
6 then there's three miles and then you go down the thruway again in
7 Syracuse.

8 MR. KAMINSKI: Oh, okay.

9 MR. GAONA-BENITEZ: (Telephone call) Hey, the investigators
10 want to know what hospital the guys were taken to last night.

11 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Excuse me.

12 MR. GAONA-BENITEZ: The investigators want to know what
13 hospital the guys were taken to last night.

14 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Upstate New York --

15 MR. KAMINSKI: SUNY Upstate?

16 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: -- Hospital.

17 MR. GAONA-BENITEZ: Yes.

18 MR. KAMINSKI: SUNY Upstate, yes.

19 MR. GAONA-BENITEZ: All right. Thank you.

20 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yes, you're welcome.

21 BY MR. KAMINSKI:

22 Q. And he was just treated and released?

23 A. Yes. He said the three of them went which would be --

24 Q. Okay.

25 A. -- the guy with the fractured leg and Antonio, the one with

1 the face laceration. And I guess he said the rest of them are
2 going today to get checked out.

3 Q. To the same hospital?

4 A. Yes, more than likely.

5 Q. Okay. So he jumped out -- you said he jumped out the side
6 opening?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. And he went out with his nephew.

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. They jumped out. He just has little glass cuts and his back
11 hurts and his --

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. -- neck hurts.

14 A. And his chest was hit in the front.

15 Q. And the chest, yes. Did he felt any -- was there any kind of
16 pre-impact braking?

17 A. He said that it braked and pulled to the side trying to get
18 away from the truck. He said that's why the bus didn't flip. It
19 just ended up on its side.

20 Q. So it pulled to the right --

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. -- away from the truck.

23 A. Away from the truck.

24 Q. Okay.

25 MR. KAMINSKI: Anything else, John?

1 MR. GAONA-BENITEZ: Do you want his email?

2 MR. KAMINSKI: Yes. I don't think I gave him business card,
3 too. He can have that.

4 And that concludes our interview here at 12:35.

5 (Whereupon, at 12:35 p.m., the interview was concluded.)
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CERTIFICATE


This is to certify that the attached proceeding before the
NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD

IN THE MATTER OF: FATAL CRASH OF A FREIGHTLINER BOX
TRUCK & BUS IN LOUISVILLE, NEW YORK
ON JANUARY 28, 2023
Interview of Baltazar Jimenez-Lopez

ACCIDENT NO.: HWY23FH005

DATE: January 31, 2023

was held according to the record, and that this is the original,
complete, true and accurate transcript which has been transcribed
to the best of my skill and ability.



Maria Socorro R. Abellar
Transcriber

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD

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Investigation of:

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FATAL CRASH OF A FREIGHTLINER BOX
TRUCK & BUS IN LOUISVILLE,
NEW YORK ON JANUARY 28, 2023

Accident No.: HWY23FH005

* * * * *

Interview of: ANTONIO LOPEZ-DIAZ, Passenger

Tuesday,
January 31, 2023

APPEARANCES:

RONALD KAMINSKI, Investigator
National Transportation Safety Board

JOHN HUMM, Investigator
National Transportation Safety Board

JAMES EDELSTEIN, Interpreter

JUAN GAONA-BENITEZ, Interpreter

I N D E X

ITEM

PAGE

Interview of Antonio Lopez-Diaz:

By Mr. Kaminski

4

I N T E R V I E W

1
2 MR. KAMINSKI: Today's date is January 31st, 2023, and my
3 name is Ronald Kaminski, NTSB. I'm here with John Humm, NTSB,
4 along with James Edelstein and Juan Gaona-Benitez, who are our
5 interpreters. And we'll be talking to bus passenger Antonio
6 Lopez-Diaz.

INTERVIEW OF ANTONIO LOPEZ-DIAZ

7
8 BY MR. KAMINSKI:

9 Q. And if he can start with his date of birth?

10 A. [REDACTED].

11 Q. Okay. His approximate height and weight?

12 A. He's not sure.

13 Q. Not sure, okay.

14 A. 55 and a half -- I mean, 57 and a half.

15 Q. Okay. If he can just tell us what he remembers about the bus
16 crash. Let's -- before we do that, where was he seated? That's
17 the driver.

18 A. He said he was in the window seat right there.

19 Q. Okay.

20 A. He said he was in the -- yes, he was in the window seat next
21 to Baltazar.

22 Q. And does he remember anybody in front or behind him?

23 A. Nickname -- he's just got -- he just knows him by a nickname.

24 Q. Okay. Anybody to the side, behind?

25 A. Jonathan Hernandez-Gomez and the other one would be -- the

- 1 Raton (ph.) is the -- Jonathan Lopez-Lopez.
- 2 Q. So Jonathan Gomez was by the window seat, and --
- 3 A. Yes.
- 4 Q. -- Lopez-Lopez --
- 5 A. Yes.
- 6 Q. Okay. Okay, and if you could just give us a description of
- 7 what he remembers?
- 8 A. He said he just heard the bus hit.
- 9 Q. Was he sleeping or --
- 10 A. He said he was awake.
- 11 Q. Okay.
- 12 A. He said he was just kind of leaning up against the window,
- 13 but he said he was awake. He said he had his hard hat on. He
- 14 said once he heard the impact, he said he never (indiscernible),
- 15 he covered himself. He said once all the glass started coming
- 16 down, he said that the window was busted open.
- 17 Q. The window next to him --
- 18 A. Yes.
- 19 Q. -- his window?
- 20 A. Yes.
- 21 Q. Okay.
- 22 A. And he said he crawled out through the window.
- 23 Q. The window that was broken next to --
- 24 A. Next to --
- 25 Q. -- him?

1 A. -- him, yes. He said that whenever he got out, he went
2 around the bus. That's when he saw the guy that was under the
3 tire. And he said he saw the other guy that was buried in the
4 snow. Yes, he said his head was down and he was buried in the
5 snow.

6 Q. Was that the guy towards the front of the bus?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. Okay. And so he went out the -- did he -- injuries?

9 A. He said he's sore in his head right there.

10 Q. Oh, he got a cut, like an abrasion.

11 A. Yes, I guess that came -- he had his hard hat on. Yes,
12 that's from the hard hat. Yes, he said his hard hat scraped. He
13 said his hard hat saved him. He said if he hadn't worn his hard
14 hat, the window would've --

15 Q. Yes. And how does he remember -- so he went out the window.
16 Was he treated at the hospital?

17 A. No. He said they just put a couple of bandages on him at the
18 -- in the ambulance, and they just checked his chest a little bit.
19 And after that, they just take him to the hotel.

20 Q. Okay. Did he go in the ambulance?

21 A. The ambulance took him.

22 Q. Okay. Did he know the seatbelts in there?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. Yes. Did he ever wear them?

25 A. He said no. He said no, he said they were all just kind of

1 hanging there and never used them.

2 Q. Okay.

3 MR. KAMINSKI: John, do you have anything?

4 MR. HUMM: No.

5 MR. GAONA-BENITEZ: Do you want him to give you the email?

6 MR. KAMINSKI: Email, yes.

7 MR. GAONA-BENITEZ: Okay.

8 MR. KAMINSKI: Okay, that concludes our interview here with
9 Mr. Diaz. It is 5 after 1:00.

10 (Whereupon, at 1:05 p.m., the interview was concluded.)

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Interview of Antonio Lopez-Diaz

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Investigation of:

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FATAL CRASH OF A FREIGHTLINER BOX
TRUCK & BUS IN LOUISVILLE,
NEW YORK ON JANUARY 28, 2023

Accident No.: HWY23FH005

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Interview of: JONATHAN LOPEZ-RODRIGUEZ, Passenger

Tuesday,
January 31, 2023

APPEARANCES:

RONALD KAMINSKI, Investigator
National Transportation Safety Board

JOHN HUMM, Investigator
National Transportation Safety Board

JAMES EDELSTEIN, Interpreter

JUAN GAONA-BENITEZ, Interpreter

I N D E X

ITEM

PAGE

Interview of Jonathan Lopez-Rodriguez:

By Mr. Kaminski

4

By Mr. Humm

8

I N T E R V I E W

1
2 MR. KAMINSKI: Today's date is January 31st, 2023. My name
3 is Ronald Kaminski, NTSB. I'm here with John Humm, NTSB. And
4 Mr. James Edelstein and Juan Gaona-Benitez will be the
5 interpreters. And we're going to be talking to Jonathan Lopez-
6 Rodriguez.

INTERVIEW OF JONATHAN LOPEZ-RODRIGUEZ

7
8 BY MR. KAMINSKI:

9 Q. So if he could give us his date of birth?

10 A. [REDACTED].

11 Q. Okay. And approximate height and weight?

12 A. 70 in weight and 170 in height.

13 Q. Okay. And if you could just give us -- tell us where you
14 were seated? He indicated he was in the third row in the aisle
15 seat.

16 A. Yes, in the aisle seat.

17 Q. And does he know who was seated next to him?

18 A. He said he just knows the nickname of the guy.

19 Q. Okay. So he's in the third row, aisle seat.

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. Okay. And what is he -- tell us what he remembers about the
22 crash.

23 A. He said he didn't see anything. He just felt when the bus
24 hit.

25 Q. Was he sleeping, was he looking at this phone?

1 A. He said he just had his head down.

2 Q. And what happened? What do you remember?

3 A. He said that he just felt the hit and then he just heard
4 people asking him if he was okay, and he said yes. He said he got
5 out through the back door.

6 Q. Okay. Did he open the door or someone else?

7 A. He said it was already open.

8 Q. And after the crash, where did he end up?

9 A. He said he was still in his seat.

10 Q. Okay.

11 A. He said that when he got out of the bus, he just kind of
12 stood there frozen, because he wasn't, like, sure if what happened
13 had happened.

14 Q. Sure.

15 A. He said that he saw somebody giving CPR to one of his work
16 mates. He said he went over there, he said he got closer, and he
17 saw that the tire was on top of somebody. He said that's all he
18 remembers.

19 Q. And so was he transported to the hospital?

20 A. He said they were standing out there while the ambulances --
21 he said they just put them in the ambulance.

22 Q. And what hospital did he go to?

23 MR. GAONA-BENITEZ: He -- they took him yesterday to the same
24 hospital.

25 MR. KAMINSKI: He got a broken leg?

1 MR. GAONA-BENITEZ: And they just took him straight to the
2 hotel?

3 MR. KAMINSKI: With the broken leg?

4 MR. GAONA-BENITEZ: Yes.

5 BY MR. KAMINSKI:

6 Q. Did he -- at least the EMS --

7 (Crosstalk)

8 A. He said they just checked his pressure and a little bit on
9 the leg, and he said they didn't do anything else. From there
10 they took him straight to the hotel.

11 Q. Did he tell him his leg hurt?

12 A. He said yes, he told them his leg hurt. He said that -- he
13 said they told him he had a -- he got hit in his leg.

14 Q. And this -- so -- okay. What did they say? It was just a
15 bruise?

16 A. He said they just made him wait in the ambulance, and then
17 they told him they were taking him to the hotel.

18 Q. Okay. How did he get to the hotel from --

19 A. The ambulances transported him to the hotel. The hotel was
20 like 8 minutes up the road. He said the only thing they gave him
21 was ice packs.

22 Q. How many people did they take in the ambulance?

23 MR. GAONA-BENITEZ: So there was 9 guys that survived. I
24 took -- I waited there with a driver on the road, so they took 7
25 back.

1 MR. KAMINSKI: In the --

2 MR. GAONA-BENITEZ: In the ambulances, yes.

3 MR. KAMINSKI: Several ambulances then, right?

4 MR. GAONA-BENITEZ: I believe there was three guys in one and
5 two guys in another, and two guys in another one.

6 MR. KAMINSKI: Took 7 back to --

7 MR. GAONA-BENITEZ: Yes, I believe it was in three
8 ambulances.

9 BY MR. KAMINSKI:

10 Q. Okay. And did he have any -- he's got a broken -- was that
11 left leg?

12 A. Yes, a fractured left leg.

13 Q. Does he know what bone? Fibula, tibia?

14 A. He said the bone that's on this side.

15 Q. Fibula. Got a fractured fibula on the left leg. Any other
16 cuts, bruises?

17 A. He said just -- he got hit in the face and he said that the
18 side of his leg hurts.

19 Q. Left side of the leg?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. And is he bruising on his left cheek or?

22 A. He said it's a little sore and a little tender.

23 Q. Okay. Did he -- was he aware of the seatbelts in there?

24 A. He says yes, but he wasn't wearing it.

25 Q. Does anybody ever wear them?

1 A. He said he doesn't pay attention to people if they're using
2 them or not.

3 Q. Okay. And then how did -- he got out the back door?

4 A. Back door.

5 Q. He got in the ambulance, they checked your pressure, checked
6 his legs, then they took him to the hotel, gave him an ice pack.

7 And then he went to that SUNY Upstate --

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. -- yesterday?

10 A. Yesterday.

11 MR. GAONA-BENITEZ: And they're other ones that bandaged it
12 and x-rayed it and told him it's fractured.

13 MR. KAMINSKI: Okay. John, do you have anything?

14 BY MR. HUMM:

15 Q. Do you know how your leg was broken? Is it in the accident
16 or jumping down -- okay.

17 A. He said in the impact, but he said at that time, he didn't
18 feel anything, you know. Just like --

19 MR. KAMINSKI: The adrenaline and the --

20 (Crosstalk)

21 MR. KAMINSKI: Yes.

22 MR. GAONA-BENITEZ: So he said he didn't feel anything at
23 that moment.

24 MR. KAMINSKI: Okay. Did I give you my --

25 MR. GAONA-BENITEZ: He's already got it.

1 MR. KAMINSKI: Okay. That concludes our interview. It's
2 approximately 12:45. We're going to get his email.

3 (Whereupon, at 12:45 p.m., the interview was concluded.)
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IN THE MATTER OF: FATAL CRASH OF A FREIGHTLINER BOX
TRUCK & BUS IN LOUISVILLE, NEW YORK
ON JANUARY 28, 2023
Interview of Jonathan Lopez-Rodriguez

ACCIDENT NO.: HWY23FH005

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Investigation of:

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FATAL CRASH OF A FREIGHTLINER BOX
TRUCK & BUS IN LOUISVILLE,
NEW YORK ON JANUARY 28, 2023

Accident No.: HWY23FH005

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Interview of: RAUL MARTINEZ, Passenger

Tuesday,
January 31, 2023

APPEARANCES:

RONALD KAMINSKI, Investigator
National Transportation Safety Board

JOHN HUMM, Investigator
National Transportation Safety Board

JAMES EDELSTEIN, Interpreter

JUAN GAONA-BENITEZ, Interpreter

I N D E X

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>PAGE</u>
Interview of Raul Martinez:	
By Mr. Kaminski	4
By Mr. Humm	11
By Mr. Kaminski	11
By Mr. Humm	11
By Mr. Kaminski	12

I N T E R V I E W

1
2 MR. KAMINSKI: Today's date is January 31st, 2023. My name
3 is Ronald Kaminski with the National Transportation Safety Board.
4 With me is Mr. John Humm, another investigator with the Safety
5 Board, and we're going to be talking to a passenger on the bus,
6 Mr. Raul Martinez. And we also have an interpreter with us just
7 in case, and his name is James Edelstein.

INTERVIEW OF RAUL MARTINEZ

8
9 BY MR. KAMINSKI:

10 Q. And we'll start off. Mr. Martinez, what's your date of
11 birth?

12 A. [REDACTED].

13 Q. Okay. And why don't you start with just -- you told me you
14 were seated in the front, first row on the right side, passenger
15 side of the bus, by yourself. You're laying down. Correct?

16 A. That's correct.

17 Q. Okay. And why don't you just tell me from the point of when
18 you realized the accident or if you were snoozing or just start
19 what you remember about the crash.

20 A. Usually I wake up a little bit late, but this time I was
21 early. I woke up at 5:30, got dressed, made it downstairs, was
22 waiting for the driver. He should be there waiting for me, like I
23 said. We left the hotel, the Eco no Lodge, to head to the job
24 site. As soon as -- like around 5:50, same time more or less we
25 usually leave, but that time we left om 5:50. We were on the

1 road. I sent out a quick text, I crossed my arms, I laid back and
2 like not even four minutes after I was lying down, I just
3 remembered being turned to one side and hearing Christopher scream
4 muchachos, muchachos, esta bien, which is guys, guys, are you guys
5 all right. I got up -- I wake up. I see that we're missing one
6 section of the bus and Peter Lies (ph.) and Jonathan (ph.) aren't
7 there. A lot of people aren't there.

8 Gregorio's (ph.) on top of me. I nudge him to get up. He
9 wasn't responsive. I started screaming Gregorio, Jonathan,
10 Gregorio, Jonathan. That's when Christopher says for us to get
11 out of the bus, we need to leave the bus. I get out. Baltazar,
12 another gentleman that was in the accident with us, told me that
13 there's two on the -- two under the bus. As I'm walking towards
14 the back of the bus, since he got out of the window -- well, the
15 opening -- I'm walking around and I see a gentleman on the floor
16 and a passenger. A Good Samaritan, was asking if anyone of us
17 knew CPR, and he started performing chest compressions on one of
18 the -- one of our workers that was lying down on the floor.

19 And I went to see who was under the bus, and that was Peter
20 Lies. He got caught beneath the wheel and the wheel snapped, and
21 at this point there wasn't much that we could do, and Jonathan was
22 right next to him. Then they -- I heard if everybody's off the
23 bus. I was looking for Gregory because he was on top of me. He
24 was still on the bus. They said Gregorio's still on the bus with
25 three others that are trapped. And that's when paramedics got

1 there, maybe 15, 20 minutes later. I think they were waiting for
2 the fire department to try to cut pieces out of the bus that way
3 they can start -- try to get some of the people that were stuck.
4 And no one understood what the guys were saying so they asked if
5 anyone spoke Spanish over here and to talk back who spoke English.
6 I was trying to talk for them in one section and then going to the
7 ambulance to help everybody else. I was a little groggy during
8 everything.

9 And going back on back to help the gentlemen who was
10 performing chest compressions on the other gentleman on the floor,
11 he says that we need to move him, it's too cold, we need to get
12 something under for him. So I was pulling at his pants, helping
13 them, trying to put him closer to the sidewalk. Christopher -- I
14 saw Christopher. He hugged me, he was crying. We're all a little
15 bit out of it. That's when he noticed -- that's when we noticed
16 that there was a piece of someone's skull on the street. That's
17 when I replied that's from Peter Lies because he's caught
18 underneath the wheel, the rim that broke and cut that part off.

19 We were there -- I was there trying to help out as much as I
20 can because they didn't have anyone on site that could talk to
21 them.

22 Q. Um-hum.

23 A. And there was a police officer there that was -- everyone
24 else there that was working there was -- they understood that, you
25 know, stuff like this -- there was a time and a place for

1 everything, and that officer -- there was no need for him to act
2 the way he was acting, saying that we've been looking at --
3 keeping an eye on this company for so long, and this and that, we
4 were just waiting for something. I just didn't want to help
5 anymore after that, like --

6 Q. And that was a police officer, a state trooper or --

7 A. My boss has his info.

8 Q. Okay.

9 A. That -- he told us to leave, what are you doing, you're not
10 supposed to be here, and that's when I told him that I was
11 involved in the accident. Well, that doesn't matter, you're still
12 not supposed to be here, and I told him there's no one here that
13 spoke Spanish. It doesn't matter, go wait in your boss's vehicle.
14 So my boss -- I was waiting in there with my boss. They said for
15 us not to go anywhere because we were going to give a statement.
16 I was waiting there.

17 Before I gave them my statement, after I had to identify the
18 bodies. So I go with my boss, because my boss knows somebody that
19 has their paperwork, but I only know them by their nicknames. So
20 I started calling one of the other workers up, hey, do you
21 remember who Peter Lie was, do you remember who Little John was,
22 do you remember who Lynch was? What were their real names because
23 I only know them by, like, by their nicknames, like I said.

24 Q. Um-hum.

25 A. The -- same officer on the scene, what are you doing here,

1 that we're here to identify the bodies. Well you don't need two
2 people for that and like I said, well, they said he has the list
3 of names and he knows them by their nicknames. That's when I
4 started looking how bad it was. It turns out the three that were
5 stuck inside the bus, they were fatalities. The other three that
6 were outside, which was the gentlemen that was seen by the Good
7 Samaritan, and the -- Peter Lies and John were also deceased. And
8 Gregorio was rushed to the hospital, so was Antonio. And --

9 Q. So Gregorio was still --

10 A. He was in critical condition.

11 Q. Critical condition, okay. Okay. So did you -- how was
12 everyone getting out of the bus that -- if they could walk or if
13 they could --

14 A. A few got out of -- through the opening that was there.

15 Q. The opening that was torn open?

16 A. Um-hum.

17 Q. Okay.

18 A. The front door wasn't able to open as well, but I kind of
19 kicked it and it opened. I got out through the front. And
20 walking by that's when the Good Samaritan saw me and told me to
21 call 9-1-1. I dialed 9-1-1. After that I called my boss at the
22 job site. I said we were in a car accident. And he was a bit
23 upset, he asked if everybody was all right. Then I said no, and
24 the line got disconnected because not so good cell service.

25 Q. Um-hum. Okay. And do you know was there ever any discussion

1 about -- did you guys know if there were seatbelts on the bus?

2 A. I'm pretty sure there were seatbelts on the bus, but like I
3 said, we would ride from one bus, there was another bus. Not all
4 the buses have seatbelts or do all the buses have seatbelts. I'm
5 not 100 percent sure on that.

6 Q. Okay. And so did you ever know anybody that wore seatbelts
7 on the bus?

8 A. Yes, the driver.

9 Q. Okay. Any of the passengers, do you know?

10 A. No. That I'm not sure.

11 Q. And what kind of injuries did you sustain?

12 A. At the time, like I said when I was up, I just felt real
13 groggy. Real groggy. A little while passed, it was just a
14 headache, a little bit of neck pain. Right now it's shoulder
15 pain, but it's manageable. I'm just taking pain killers.

16 Q. Headache, neck pain. So you probably maybe have a slight --
17 you didn't -- were you treated in the hospital at all?

18 A. That day, no.

19 Q. Okay.

20 A. Not that day. That day, (indiscernible) and all that, I just
21 wanted to go to sleep.

22 Q. So did you go eventually to the hospital the next day or --

23 A. Yes, the next day I was calling my uncle, explaining what
24 happened. He said it's good -- it's better just to be safe than
25 sorry and to check yourself out.

1 Q. Right.

2 A. Go to the hospital, see what happens, and so that's what I
3 did.

4 Q. And what hospital did you go to? Do you remember, was that
5 Massena? It was a hospital --

6 A. It was Massena.

7 Q. -- in Massena Hospital, okay.

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. I think that's all -- just Massena Hospital, yes, okay.

10 A. I think so.

11 Q. And you were at this -- they treated you and you just went
12 home the same day --

13 A. Um-hum.

14 Q. -- or went back to the hotel?

15 A. Yes, it's just -- didn't want my uncle or anyone to worry and
16 they were, like, go to the hospital, check yourself out just in
17 case, so.

18 Q. Sure.

19 A. All right.

20 Q. And I forgot to ask, what's your approximate height and
21 weight?

22 A. [REDACTED] last time I checked
23 myself.

24 Q. Okay. And anything else other than the rude police officer,
25 did the emergency response seem to be pretty good with EMS and all

- 1 that --
- 2 A. Otherwise, everyone else -- yes.
- 3 Q. -- was polite?
- 4 A. Yes.
- 5 Q. Okay, good.
- 6 MR. KAMINSKI: Anything else, John?
- 7 BY MR. HUMM:
- 8 Q. You were -- sorry -- so you were laying back?
- 9 A. Yes.
- 10 Q. Was your head against the -- probably -- or --
- 11 A. My head was on my hard hat.
- 12 Q. Um-hum.
- 13 A. And I was --
- 14 BY MR. KAMINSKI:
- 15 Q. Was it toward the wall or toward the aisle?
- 16 A. Towards the window.
- 17 Q. Towards the window, okay.
- 18 BY MR. HUMM:
- 19 Q. Okay, but it was towards the window. So you were kind of
- 20 sitting -- I was just trying to figure out were you, like, laying
- 21 sideways --
- 22 A. Yes, long ways.
- 23 Q. Okay, all right.
- 24 A. Since I was the only one in the seat, so --
- 25 Q. Yes, okay.

- 1 A. -- I just sat there and laid back.
- 2 Q. Okay. And did you hit your head or like did your head hit
3 anything at all?
- 4 A. I want to assume the seat.
- 5 Q. Okay.
- 6 BY MR. KAMINSKI:
- 7 Q. Well, there's that padding right in front of you, right --
- 8 A. Um-hum.
- 9 Q. -- you probably -- I imagine you flew against that because
10 that was dislodged so you probably knocked that out, you know.
- 11 A. Um-hum.
- 12 Q. And then so you ended up -- were you in the stairwell or
13 you're just on the floor when you --
- 14 A. When I woke up, Gregorio was on top of me in the same --
- 15 Q. Right.
- 16 A. -- spot.
- 17 Q. Oh, in the same spot? So you remained pretty much in that
18 seat? Okay. And Gregorio was on top of you.
- 19 A. He sits in the seat next to me --
- 20 Q. Um-hum.
- 21 A. -- on the outside and he was on top of me.
- 22 Q. Okay. And I think that's it. Here's my business card.
- 23 A. Thank you.
- 24 Q. You got email and phone number on there, and I want to thank
25 you very much for taking the time and give us a very good

1 description. I know it's, you know, hate to have to, I guess, put
2 you through that again and thinking about those sights that you
3 probably just want to forget about.

4 A. Um-hum.

5 Q. And I apologize for that police officer for being so rude to
6 you as well. There's no excuse for that. But I still want to
7 thank you very much. I appreciate your time, sir.

8 MR. HUMM: Did they explain the whole process of what NTSB
9 will do?

10 MR. KAMINSKI: Max --

11 MR. HUMM: Did Max --

12 MR. MARTINEZ: Yes.

13 MR. KAMINSKI: Okay.

14 MR. HUMM: All right. Did you have any questions about that
15 at all?

16 MR. MARTINEZ: Do I leave my email with you to get a --

17 MR. KAMINSKI: No, leave it -- yes, I can take it, but Max
18 probably -- Max will want it.

19 MR. MARTINEZ: Okay.

20 MR. KAMINSKI: Okay. And what's your email?

21 MR. MARTINEZ: [REDACTED]

22 MR. KAMINSKI: M-t-z?

23 MR. MARTINEZ: [REDACTED].

24 MR. KAMINSKI: Okay, great. Thank you very much. Yes,
25 thanks.

CERTIFICATE



This is to certify that the attached proceeding before the
NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD

IN THE MATTER OF: FATAL CRASH OF A FREIGHTLINER BOX
TRUCK & BUS IN LOUISVILLE, NEW YORK
ON JANUARY 28, 2023
Interview of Raul Martinez

ACCIDENT NO.: HWY23FH005

DATE: January 31, 2023

was held according to the record, and that this is the original,
complete, true and accurate transcript which has been transcribed
to the best of my skill and ability.

Maria Socorro R. Abellar
Transcriber

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD

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Investigation of:

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FATAL CRASH OF A FREIGHTLINER BOX
TRUCK & BUS IN LOUISVILLE,
NEW YORK ON JANUARY 28, 2023

Accident No.: HWY23FH005

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Interview of: ANTONIO REYES-NAVA, Passenger

Tuesday,
January 31, 2023

APPEARANCES:

RONALD KAMINSKI, Investigator
National Transportation Safety Board

JOHN HUMM, Investigator
National Transportation Safety Board

JAMES EDELSTEIN, Interpreter

JUAN GAONA-BENITEZ, Interpreter

I N D E X

ITEM

PAGE

Interview of Antonio Reyes-Nava:

By Mr. Kaminski

4

I N T E R V I E W

1
2 MR. KAMINSKI: Today's date is January 31st, 2023. My name
3 is Ronald Kaminski, NTSB. I'm here with John Humm, NTSB.

4 Mr. James Edelstein and Mr. Juan Gaona-Benitez are going to
5 be interpreters. And we're going to be talking to passenger
6 Antonio Reyes-Nava.

INTERVIEW OF ANTONIO REYES-NAVA

7
8 BY MR. KAMINSKI:

9 Q. And if we can start with your date of birth?

10 A. [REDACTED]

11 Q. Okay. Approximate height and weight?

12 A. [REDACTED].

13 Q. Okay. And if he could just start with -- here's a seating
14 chart.

15 A. He was in the back seat.

16 Q. Was he alone?

17 A. Yes. He was sitting in the middle of the seat.

18 Q. Okay.

19 A. The back seat.

20 Q. Does he remember who his --

21 A. Okay. He says he remembers Vicente was in front of him.

22 Q. Okay. Does he --

23 A. He said he doesn't know the guy's name that was sitting next
24 to him.

25 Q. And was Vicente in the middle, by the window or the aisle?

1 A. He was sitting in the middle --

2 Q. Okay.

3 A. -- also.

4 Q. Okay. And if you could just give us a description what were
5 you doing at the time of the crash and what you remember?

6 A. He said when the accident -- before it happened, he said he
7 was in his seat kind of falling asleep.

8 Q. Was his head down?

9 A. Yes, he had his head down.

10 Q. And what's he remember -- what does he remember next?

11 A. He said he just heard a thump. He said after that, he didn't
12 -- doesn't know anything. He woke up in a hospital.

13 Q. What hospital?

14 A. No. Yes, he said it was close to Massena.

15 Q. And how many -- did he spend one night, two nights?

16 A. No, he was released a couple of hours later.

17 Q. Oh, they just --

18 A. Stitched him up and sent him home.

19 MR. GAONA-BENITEZ: I may have the name of the hospital.

20 MR. KAMINSKI: The Massena hospital.

21 MR. GAONA-BENITEZ: Yes, because I was the one who's supposed
22 to go pick him up, but I had to wait on scene.

23 MR. KAMINSKI: And how -- so he doesn't remember how he got
24 out?

25 MR. GAONA-BENITEZ: No.

1 MR. KAMINSKI: Where he ended up, anything?

2 MR. GAONA-BENITEZ: Yes.

3 BY MR. KAMINSKI:

4 Q. And any other injuries other than the lacerations?

5 A. He said just -- it's just, you know, bumps and bruises, ribs,
6 shoulder.

7 Q. Just bumps, bruises, okay.

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. No other broken bones?

10 A. Yes, he said just, you know, bumps and bruises, nothing
11 broken.

12 Q. All over or chest, legs?

13 A. Ribs, both shoulders and his leg, and his other leg.

14 Q. Okay. And does he know how many stitches he got?

15 A. He said he hasn't counted them. It's a lot, though.

16 Q. Okay. Does he ever wear the seatbelts or know about the
17 seatbelts?

18 A. He said he wasn't wearing it that day and he is aware that
19 the bus has seatbelts.

20 Q. Okay. Has he ever worn it?

21 A. He said yes, he's -- but he said he didn't wear it that day.

22 Q. Okay.

23 MR. KAMINSKI: Okay. Anything else, John?

24 MR. HUMM: No.

25 MR. GAONA-BENITEZ: His email.

1 MR. KAMINSKI: We're going to gather his email. This
2 concludes the interview with Mr. Nava. It's approximately 8
3 minutes till 1:00.

4 (Whereupon, at 12:52 p.m., the interview was concluded.)
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CERTIFICATE



This is to certify that the attached proceeding before the
NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD

IN THE MATTER OF: FATAL CRASH OF A FREIGHTLINER BOX
TRUCK & BUS IN LOUISVILLE, NEW YORK
ON JANUARY 28, 2023
Interview of Antonio Reyes-Nava

ACCIDENT NO.: HWY23FH005

DATE: January 31, 2023

was held according to the record, and that this is the original,
complete, true and accurate transcript which has been transcribed
to the best of my skill and ability.

Maria Socorro R. Abellar
Transcriber

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD

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Investigation of:

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FATAL CRASH OF A FREIGHTLINER BOX
TRUCK & BUS IN LOUISVILLE,
NEW YORK ON JANUARY 28, 2023

Accident No.: HWY23FH005

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Interview of: VICENTE VELASCO-HERNANDEZ, Passenger

Tuesday,
January 31, 2023

APPEARANCES:

RONALD KAMINSKI, Investigator
National Transportation Safety Board

JOHN HUMM, Investigator
National Transportation Safety Board

JAMES EDELSTEIN, Interpreter

JUAN GAONA-BENITEZ, Interpreter

I N D E X

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>PAGE</u>
Interview of Vicente Velasco-Hernandez:	
By Mr. Kaminski	4
By Mr. Humm	7
By Mr. Kaminski	7

I N T E R V I E W

1
2 MR. KAMINSKI: Today's date, January 31st, 2023, and my name
3 is Ronald Kaminski, NTSB. I'm here with John Humm, NTSB.
4 Mr. James Edelstein and Mr. Juan Gaona-Benitez, both interpreters.
5 And we're going to be talking to passenger Vicente Velasco-
6 Hernandez.

INTERVIEW OF VICENTE VELASCO-HERNANDEZ

8 BY MR. KAMINSKI:

9 Q. And if we could start, Mr. Hernandez, your date of birth?

10 A. [REDACTED].

11 Q. Okay. His approximate height and weight?

12 A. [REDACTED].

13 Q. Um-hum.

14 A. [REDACTED].

15 Q. Okay. And if you could just give us where he was seated?

16 A. He was sitting right here.

17 Q. Okay. Was there anyone sitting next to him?

18 A. He was only here by himself.

19 Q. Here?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. Was he laying down?

22 A. He was laying down -- he was sitting laying back.

23 Q. Okay. Was he more towards the window or aisle?

24 A. Towards the --

25 Q. Okay.

1 A. -- center.

2 Q. And why does -- tell me what he remembers about the crash?

3 A. He said whenever they hit them, he just felt the hit of the
4 guy that hit them. He said after that, he ended up like sliding a
5 little bit underneath the seat. He said he just, you know, kind
6 of blacked out.

7 Q. And is -- how did he get out of the bus?

8 A. He said when he came to, everything was like torn about. He
9 said he got out the back door.

10 Q. He went out the back door. Okay. Does he remember, was
11 there -- does he remember anyone that was seated around him, like
12 behind him?

13 A. Antonio --

14 Q. Here's the names.

15 A. Oh, okay. All right. That would be Antonio -- the one that
16 cut his face -- the -- Antonio Nava -- Antonio Reyes Nava was
17 sitting behind him.

18 Q. In the middle?

19 A. He's not too sure where, but he knows he was sitting behind
20 him.

21 Q. Antonio --

22 A. Reyes Nava.

23 Q. Okay, all right. Okay. He said he does know who it is, but
24 he doesn't know what their name is.

25 Q. Okay. Who was sitting next to him?

1 A. Yes, he doesn't -- he knows who it is, but he doesn't know
2 his name.

3 Q. Okay. And what types of injuries did he have?

4 A. He said once they got hit, he said when he got up, he didn't
5 feel anything. He said it felt like a dream. He said the next
6 day, he said his legs hurt real bad, his back and his shoulder.

7 Q. They're sore or hurt?

8 A. Yes, he said it's just like sore and pains.

9 Q. And was he treated in any hospital --

10 (Crosstalk)

11 A. He said no.

12 Q. No.

13 A. Not yet.

14 MR. GAONA-BENITEZ: Yes, I know all the guys were put into
15 ambulances and given a once over, but I think that's all they did.
16 And after that, they just took them back to the hotel.

17 MR. KAMINSKI: Okay.

18 BY MR. KAMINSKI:

19 Q. And did he know there were seatbelts on the bus?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. Did anybody ever wear it?

22 A. He knew but never used them.

23 Q. Okay. Okay, so he -- after he felt, he slid under the seat
24 in front of him.

25 A. Um-hum.

1 Q. He blacked out, he woke up, he went out the back door. At
2 the crash, he didn't feel anything, thought it was a dream. Next
3 day his legs hurt, back and shoulder sore.

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. And he didn't get any treatment. He was seen by EMS --

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. -- in the ambulance. He wasn't wearing a seatbelt, didn't
8 think anybody was, so. Okay.

9 MR. HUMM: One question.

10 BY MR. HUMM:

11 Q. So to get out the back door, did you open it or was it --
12 (Crosstalk)

13 A. Yes, he said him and another guy opened it.

14 BY MR. KAMINSKI:

15 Q. Okay. Did he open or the other guy?

16 A. He said the other guy opened it.

17 Q. Okay.

18 MR. GAONA-BENITEZ: All right.

19 MR. KAMINSKI: Oh, I didn't -- you gave me your height and
20 weight, and your date of birth, so yes. I think --

21 MR. HUMM: Can I have his email or do you want to get it for
22 us?

23 MR. GAONA-BENITEZ: I'll write it down.

24 MR. KAMINSKI: Okay. He'll probably end up giving it to Max
25 as well. Max is going to have them -- to fill out the form and he

1 can -- like he can -- Max can communicate and tell him how the
2 investigation's going.

3 MR. GAONA-BENITEZ: All right.

4 MR. KAMINSKI: That concludes out interview here at 20 after
5 12:00.

6 (Whereupon, at 12:20 p.m., the interview was concluded.)
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IN THE MATTER OF: FATAL CRASH OF A FREIGHTLINER BOX
TRUCK & BUS IN LOUISVILLE, NEW YORK
ON JANUARY 28, 2023
Interview of Vicente Velasco-Hernandez

ACCIDENT NO.: HWY23FH005

DATE: January 31, 2023

was held according to the record, and that this is the original,
complete, true and accurate transcript which has been transcribed
to the best of my skill and ability.



Maria Socorro R. Abellar
Transcriber

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD

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Investigation of:

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FATAL CRASH OF A FREIGHTLINER BOX
TRUCK & BUS IN LOUISVILLE,
NEW YORK ON JANUARY 28, 2023

Accident No.: HWY23FH005

* * * * *

Interview of: ANDY VERA-LEON, Passenger

Tuesday,
January 31, 2023

APPEARANCES:

RONALD KAMINSKI, Investigator
National Transportation Safety Board

JOHN HUMM, Investigator
National Transportation Safety Board

JAMES EDELSTEIN, Interpreter

JUAN GAONA-BENITEZ, Interpreter

I N D E X

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>PAGE</u>
Interview of Andy Vera-Leon:	
By Mr. Kaminski	4
By Mr. Humm	9
By Mr. Kaminski	10
By Mr. Humm	11
By Mr. Kaminski	12
By Mr. Humm	12

1 I N T E R V I E W

2 MR. KAMINSKI: Today's date is January 31st, 2023, and my
3 name is Ronald Kaminski, NTSB. I'm here with John Humm, NTSB.
4 James Edelstein is going to be interpreter, along with Juan Gaona-
5 Benitez is also an interpreter. And we're going to be talking to
6 passenger Andy Vera-Leon, V-e-r-a, Leon, L-e-o-n.

7 INTERVIEW OF ANDY VERA-LEON

8 BY MR. KAMINSKI:

9 Q. And if we can start with his date of birth?

10 A. [REDACTED] --

11 MR. GAONA-BENITEZ: I'm going to write it down, because
12 the -- in Mexico they put the date first, the month second.

13 MR. KAMINSKI: Okay.

14 MR. GAONA-BENITEZ: Just you have to --

15 BY MR. KAMINSKI:

16 A. All right. So day [REDACTED].

17 Q. Okay. And his approximate height and weight.

18 A. [REDACTED] kilos. Height is in --

19 Q. Well, he can tell us the -- we can, you know --

20 MR. GAONA-BENITEZ: All right. Well, that first measure --

21 MR. KAMINSKI: The [REDACTED].

22 MR. GAONA-BENITEZ: That's the height.

23 MR. KAMINSKI: Height, okay.

24 MR. GAONA-BENITEZ: Yes. And then the other one's the
25 weight.

1 BY MR. KAMINSKI:

2 Q. And then how much was that?

3 A. ■ kilos.

4 Q. ■?

5 A. ■.

6 MR. HUMM: ■.

7 MR. KAMINSKI: Okay.

8 BY MR. KAMINSKI:

9 Q. So does he recall where he was seated? That's the window.

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. Okay. And was anyone sitting next to him?

12 A. The guy that fractured his leg.

13 MR. EDELSTEIN: The problem here is that these guys have just
14 started working here, so that's why they don't know each other so
15 well.

16 BY MR. KAMINSKI:

17 Q. So he doesn't know --

18 (Crosstalk)

19 A. I can give you --

20 MR. EDELSTEIN: He's been here five or six, but a lot of the
21 other guys, like they were saying --

22 MR. KAMINSKI: Brand new.

23 MR. EDELSTEIN: -- has only been -- yes.

24 MR. GAONA-BENITEZ: So I can give you the name of the guy
25 that --

1 MR. KAMINSKI: Okay.

2 MR. GAONA-BENITEZ: -- because I was onsite, and I had like a
3 list of all that. It was Antonio Lopez-Diaz, I believe.

4 BY MR. KAMINSKI:

5 Q. Okay. Does he remember anybody who was seated in front of
6 him?

7 A. Baltazar was in the inside lane. All right, so Antonio Reyes
8 was in front of him, window seat.

9 Q. All right.

10 A. Not the same Antonio that fractured his leg. It's another
11 Antonio.

12 Q. Okay. And that was --

13 MR. GAONA-BENITEZ: So there's Antonio Lopez-Diaz fractured
14 his leg. He was sitting next to him.

15 MR. KAMINSKI: Right, in the window seat.

16 MR. GAONA-BENITEZ: Yes. So, yes, Antonio was seated here.

17 MR. KAMINSKI: Oh, right.

18 MR. GAONA-BENITEZ: He was sitting here and then the other
19 Antonio was here -- Antonio Reyes.

20 MR. GAONA-BENITEZ: No, I gave him the -- yes, the other name
21 Baltazar --

22 MR. EDELSTEIN: Oh, okay, Baltazar.

23 MR. GAONA-BENITEZ: Yes.

24 BY MR. KAMINSKI:

25 Q. Okay. And anyone --

- 1 A. All right. So Axel Rojas (ph.) and Jesus Lopez-Lopez.
- 2 Q. Who was in the window? Who was in the aisle?
- 3 A. All right. Pablo -- I believe that's Jesus Lopez-Lopez.
- 4 MR. HUMM: So he was the one sitting in the aisle, correct?
- 5 MR. GAONA-BENITEZ: Yes, he was in that seat by himself.
- 6 MR. KAMINSKI: Okay. Jesus Lopez-Lopez?
- 7 MR. GAONA-BENITEZ: Yes.
- 8 BY MR. KAMINSKI:
- 9 Q. Okay. Do you remember anybody behind you?
- 10 A. All right. Vicente was behind me. There was a -- that's
- 11 Q. In the window or aisle?
- 12 A. All right. So he's not sure if Vicente was by himself,
- 13 because sometimes he sits by himself, but he said sometimes the
- 14 other guys sits here. So he's not sure exactly --
- 15 Q. Okay.
- 16 A. -- if he was sitting by himself or not.
- 17 Q. Okay, that's fine. Okay. And if he could just give a
- 18 description. How -- he was sitting in his seat, leaning to the
- 19 side?
- 20 A. He was on his phone.
- 21 Q. Okay. And what does he remember, what --
- 22 A. He said they pulled out at 5:50 like they always do. So they
- 23 got on the bus and started to head to work. He said as usual on
- 24 the ride, he starts looking at his phone. He said after that he
- 25 just felt the accident and it was all over with.

1 Q. Did he hear -- did he feel any braking?

2 A. Yes, he said he felt --

3 (Crosstalk)

4 A. -- and he felt the bus. He said he hit the roof, he felt it
5 all slide to the side. And then he said he ended up in the middle
6 of the bus.

7 Q. So he ended up in the aisle.

8 A. Yes, he ended up in the aisle.

9 Q. And how did he exit the bus?

10 A. The rear emergency door.

11 Q. Rear emergency door.

12 A. All right. He doesn't know if the door was working because
13 other people had gotten out before he got out, so it was already
14 open.

15 Q. Okay, good to know, thank you. And was he -- was Antonio --
16 wait -- Lopez, where did he end up? Do you know?

17 A. He said he followed him to get out.

18 Q. Okay.

19 A. So they ended up the same place.

20 Q. Okay.

21 MR. HUMM: He had a broken leg.

22 MR. GAONA-BENITEZ: Fractured.

23 MR. HUMM: Fractured leg, yes.

24 BY MR. KAMINSKI:

25 Q. And did you know there were seatbelts on there?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. Did anybody ever wear them?

3 A. No.

4 Q. Did the bus driver or anybody ever tell you to wear them or
5 no?

6 A. No.

7 Q. Okay. Anything else he can tell me that would be -- was
8 emergency response, were they pretty prompt?

9 A. The first thing they told us when we got out of the bus was
10 get away from the bus because they were afraid it was going to
11 explode, you know, a fuel leak or something.

12 Q. Sure, okay. Who was telling them this?

13 A. No, that was just his --

14 Q. Oh, okay.

15 A. And then his roommate, he saw he didn't come out of the bus.
16 He said after that he saw his roommate didn't come out, so he went
17 back in, he said, to help him. He said he was still alive. He
18 tried to pull him. He said his leg was pinned --

19 (Crosstalk)

20 BY MR. HUMM:

21 Q. What was his name? Your roommate's name -- your roommate,
22 what was his name?

23 A. Jesus Lopez-Lopez. And then he said that's when he saw the
24 rest of the guys that were left in the bus that were already gone.
25 He said he saw a lot of blood. The other guy, there was nothing

1 that could be done anymore. He said since he couldn't help
2 getting him loose, he got out the door, checked around the bus
3 looking for the rest of the guys. He said he saw the other -- two
4 of our guys that were under the bus. And then he said there was
5 nothing anybody could do, so. He said after that he got away from
6 there and he went with everybody else that was able to get out.

7 BY MR. KAMINSKI:

8 Q. So did he say there -- was there two people that were thrown
9 out of the bus or three? Does he remember?

10 A. He said two were outside of the bus and the bus was on top of
11 them. And then the other one was in the front.

12 Q. Was he in front of the bus or underneath the front of the
13 bus?

14 A. No, in front of the bus.

15 Q. Okay. Distance? Was there --

16 A. No, it wasn't that far away.

17 Q. It was pretty close? Okay. Okay. What kind of injuries did
18 he sustain?

19 A. He said he hit his head. He said he's got a bad pain on his
20 side, and he said the back of his neck hurts. And he said he's
21 got a couple of cuts.

22 Q. Was he treated at the hospital? Did he go to the hospital?

23 A. No, they didn't take him to the hospital. They just put him
24 in the EMT, gave him a once over and that was it.

25 Q. Okay. Did he have to sign a waiver saying that --

1 (Crosstalk)

2 A. No.

3 Q. No. And so did he go to the hospital the next day or --

4 (Crosstalk)

5 MR. GAONA-BENITEZ: We've asked him if they want to go --
6 we've taken two -- three of guys have been taken to the hospital.
7 One, I believe, he had a leg fracture. The other one he got
8 slashed across his face. He was taken to the hospital.

9 MR. KAMINSKI: In Massena?

10 MR. GAONA-BENITEZ: Yes, they stitched him up and released
11 him, but they didn't give him antibiotics, nothing for the pain,
12 so we took him again.

13 MR. KAMINSKI: Okay. And did you go back to Massena or a
14 different --

15 MR. GAONA-BENITEZ: No, here.

16 MR. KAMINSKI: Okay. And what hospital is that?

17 MR. GAONA-BENITEZ: I'm not sure which --

18 (Crosstalk)

19 MR. GAONA-BENITEZ: He said they asked them for their names
20 in the ambulance and that was it.

21 MR. KAMINSKI: Okay. Okay, John, do you have anything else?

22 BY MR. HUMM:

23 Q. You said -- did you say your head hit the --

24 A. He said it felt like he hit up top. Yes, he says since he
25 had his head down, he said he feels like it was the roof.

1 Q. Okay.

2 BY MR. KAMINSKI:

3 Q. And then he ended up in the aisle?

4 A. In the aisle, yes.

5 Q. Yes, right, okay.

6 BY MR. HUMM:

7 Q. And Jesus --

8 A. Lopez-Lopez, yes.

9 Q. Yes. Was he here -- after the accident, was he pinned here
10 or was he --

11 A. No, his -- okay, Jesus was here with Jonathan Gomez (ph.),
12 who also passed away. Jonathan was in the window. He's the guy
13 that ended up under the bus. And Jesus was here and he -- okay,
14 well, Jesus Lopez-Lopez --

15 MR. KAMINSKI: Was he giving -- looking for a different name
16 or --

17 MR. GAONA-BENITEZ: I'm not even sure. I'm thinking -- oh,
18 okay, that's Miguel Hernandez-Fernandez (ph.).

19 MR. KAMINSKI: Here?

20 MR. GAONA-BENITEZ: Yes -- no, Jesus, he was here --

21 MR. KAMINSKI: Okay.

22 MR. GAONA-BENITEZ: -- and Miguel Hernandez-Fernandez was
23 there.

24 MR. KAMINSKI: Hernandez --

25 MR. GAONA-BENITEZ: Fernandez --

1 MR. KAMINSKI: Fernandez.

2 MR. GAONA-BENITEZ: Yes.

3 MR. KAMINSKI: Okay.

4 MR. GAONA-BENITEZ: He said that Jesus was here, but he ended
5 up getting pinned under this seat.

6 MR. KAMINSKI: Okay. So he was pinned under the second row.
7 Where -- in the second row, right side under that seat?

8 MR. GAONA-BENITEZ: Yes.

9 MR. KAMINSKI: Okay. Okay, well, thank you very much. Here
10 is my business card with email and do you have an email -- did you
11 give -- did he give it to Max?

12 MR. GAONA-BENITEZ: He said he has not given any contact
13 info.

14 MR. KAMINSKI: Okay. Do you want to -- could he give that to
15 me?

16 MR. GAONA-BENITEZ: It would be better if you just give him
17 something to write it down with.

18 MR. KAMINSKI: Okay. Because Max will probably have everyone
19 fill out --

20 MR. GAONA-BENITEZ: Okay.

21 MR. KAMINSKI: -- what their email, their address, so --

22 MR. GAONA-BENITEZ: All right.

23 MR. KAMINSKI: You can help him that what Max -- we'll give
24 them updates. I don't know if he explained that --

25 MR. EDELSTEIN: He did --

1 MR. KAMINSKI: -- regarding the investigation and how's it
2 going. Okay.

3 MR. GAONA-BENITEZ: Okay.

4 MR. HUMM: Okay.

5 MR. KAMINSKI: That concludes our interview here at 12:10.

6 (Whereupon, at 12:10 p.m., the interview was concluded.)
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CERTIFICATE


This is to certify that the attached proceeding before the
NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD

IN THE MATTER OF: FATAL CRASH OF A FREIGHTLINER BOX
TRUCK & BUS IN LOUISVILLE, NEW YORK
ON JANUARY 28, 2023
Interview of Andy Vera-Leon

ACCIDENT NO.: HWY23FH005

DATE: January 31, 2023

was held according to the record, and that this is the original,
complete, true and accurate transcript which has been transcribed
to the best of my skill and ability.



Maria Socorro R. Abellar
Transcriber