

Transcript of CNN interview with Humphreys Munai

PHILLIPS: Well, we're thrilled to have Humphreys Munai here today. He joins us actually on the line from Oklahoma City. Humphreys, we watched that video come in. We've heard about the homecoming. Tell me your story.

How did you get out? You are one of the miraculous stories of someone who was able to get out of there.

MUNAI (via telephone): Yes. The way I was able to get out was I talked to CNN reporters who had arrived at Port-au-Prince airport when we were trying to get out. And they told me basically your best option might be to see if you can go to Dominican Republic and fly out of Santo Domingo.

We talked to a local driver in Haiti. His name is Freddy, and he said he can drive us to the border, and then from the border, we'll have to hire a taxi to get us over to Santo Domingo. And that is how we made the move, and we drove to the border, across the border, into...

PHILLIPS: Did we lose Humphreys?

MUNAI: I'm here. After clearing customs -- hello?

PHILLIPS: Are you still there? We had lost you for a moment, Humphreys. So, you got your way into a taxi and made your way to Santiago?

MUNAI: To Santo Domingo.

PHILLIPS: Oh, Santo Domingo.

MUNAI: To the border of Santo Domingo to the airport, so we are able to fly out.

PHILLIPS: And so once you were able to fly out, tell me what led up to that point. Where were you in Haiti when the earthquake happened? And how did you even make yourself to the point of talking with our CNN folks?

MUNAI: When the earthquake happened, I was at CDT, which is a medical facility. I was feeling dizzy, and I decided let me get checked. And they were basically checking and making sure everything is okay with me.

When I was about to be discharged, that is when the earthquake occurred. Lucky for me and my colleague from Guatemala, Conrad Vergas (ph), the building there is built to withstand such a shock. So, even though it was moving, it did not break.

So, after everything settled down and we made it back to our world neighbors' office, which was still standing, but there was a building leaning against it. So, we decided to

basically sleep on the road in front of the office, because that's where basically everybody was sitting down to pass the night.

The next day morning, we walked to our hotel. But we found out that the hotel was no more. Hotel Montana was already gone. So, we went back to the office and decided it's time to go to the airport to see if we could get out of the country, because we knew food was going to be an issue. And as the longer we took, the more harder it will become, so we were thinking we might be among the first people out.

When we got to the airport, we were told, no, the airport is closed. There are no planes going out. The terminal is closed or damaged. So, then we sat out there and started talking to people. When CNN folks arrived we basically -- I thought the best thing was to at least just give them my business card, for them just to mention my name and my colleague's name, that we're alive. That's all we needed.

But they were generous enough to do an interview with me live there, and including CNN Radio, and during conversations with them and letting them know what's happening inside of Port-au-Prince, where we've come from, where the houses are -- basically people are buried under their houses, they told me, you might want to try and see if you can get to Santo Domingo and fly from there, because they did not experience an earthquake on that end.

PHILLIPS: Well, it's just remarkable that you got out of there and you got home. I can't even imagine what it was like to touch down in Oklahoma. We saw the tears. You are one of the lucky stories, Humphreys Munai, thank you so much for sharing that with me.

And just the opposite, though, of what you heard from Humphreys, of course, the thousands, hundreds of thousands -- we still haven't been able to put a number on those that have died in this horrific earthquake.