

# Eye Witness Testimony Is Conclusive That North Tower collapsed from controlled Demolition

What happened to William Rodriguez the morning of 9/11

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WTC Basement Blast And Injured Burn Victim Blows 'Official 9/11 Story' Sky High  
Eye Witness Testimony Is Conclusive That North Tower Collapsed From Controlled Demolition



Tears well up in the eyes of Rosemary Cain of Massapequa left, who lost her firefighter son, George Cain on 9/11 (he worked out of Ladder 7 in Manhattan), and William Rodriguez, right, who worked in the North Tower of the WTC in charge of security and was the last survivor there, as they are shown graphic images from 9/11 on Tuesday, May 18, 2004, at the Sept. 11 Commission hearing in Manhattan.

(Newsday photo / Julia Gaines)

Rodriguez vs. Bush

United States District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania

<http://vestigialconscience.com/Rodriguezvs.Bush.pdf>

What happened to William Rodriguez the morning of 9/11 is a miracle.

What happened to his story after-the-fact is a tragedy.

But with miracles and tragedies comes truth. And truth is exactly what Rodriguez brings to the whole mystery surrounding 9/11.

Declared a hero for saving numerous lives at Ground Zero, he was the janitor on duty the morning of 9/11 who heard and felt explosions rock the basement sub-levels of the north tower just seconds before the jetliner struck the top floors.

He not only claims he felt explosions coming from below the first sub-level while working in the basement, he says the walls were cracking around him and he pulled a man to safety by the name of Felipe David, who was severely burned from the basement explosions.

All these events occurred only seconds before and during the jetliner strike above. And through it all, he now asks a simple question everybody should be asking? How could a jetliner hit 90 floors above and burn a man's arms and face to a crisp in the basement below within seconds of impact?

Rodriguez claims this was impossible and clearly demonstrates a controlled demolition brought down the WTC, saying "Let's see them (the government) try to wiggle out of this

one.”

Well, they haven't wiggled out of it because the government continues to act like Rodriguez doesn't exist, basically ignoring his statements and the fact he rescued a man burnt and bleeding from the basement explosions.

His eye witness account, ignored by the media and the government, points the finger squarely on an official cover-up at the highest levels since the government contends the WTC fell only from burning jet fuel. And after listening to Rodriguez, it's easy to see why the Bush administration wants him kept quiet.

Bush wants him quiet because Rodriguez's account is 'proof positive' the WTC was brought down by a controlled demolition, not burning jet fuel. And Bush knows if he's caught lying about this or caught in a cover-up, it's just a matter of time before the whole house of cards comes tumbling down.

In fact, Rodriguez's story is so damaging - so damning - it literally blows the lid off the government story, literally exposing the whole 9/11 investigation as a sham and a cover-up of the worst kind.

And it appears the cover-up also extends to the media.

NBC news knew about his story several years ago, even spending a full day at his house taping his comments. But when push came to shove, his story was never aired. Why?

His eyewitness account, backed up by at least 14 people at the scene with him, isn't speculation or conjecture. It isn't a story that takes a network out on a journalistic limb. It's a story that can be backed up, a story that can be verified with hospital records and testimony from many others.

It's a story about 14 people who felt and heard the same explosion and even saw Rodriguez, moments after the airplane hit, take David to safety, after he was burnt so bad from the basement explosion flesh was hanging from his face and both arms

So why didn't NBC or any other major news outlets cover the story? They didn't run it because it shot the government story to hell and back. They didn't run it because "the powers at be" wouldn't allow it.

Since 9/11, Rodriguez has stuck to his guns, never wavering from what he said from day one. Left homeless at times, warned to keep quiet and subtly harassed, he nevertheless has continued trying to tell get his message out in the face of a country not willing to listen.

Here is his story:

### The Miracle

It's a miracle Rodriguez, 44, who worked at the WTC for 20 years, is even alive. Usually arriving to work at 8:30am, the morning of 9/11 he reported 30 minutes late. If he'd arrived on time, it would have put him at the top floors just about the same time the jetliner hit the north tower.

“It was a miracle. If I arrived on time, like always, I’d probably be dead. I would have been up at the top floors like every morning,” said Rodriguez about the quirk of fate that saved his life.

But since he was late, Rodriguez found himself checking into work in an office on sub-level 1 when the north tower was hit, seemingly out of harms way. However, the sound and concussion of a massive explosion in the sub-levels right below his feet changed that.

“When I heard the sound of the explosion, the floor beneath my feet vibrated, the walls started cracking and it everything started shaking,” said Rodriguez, who was huddled together with at least 14 other people in the office.

Rodriguez said Anthony Saltamachia, supervisor for the American Maintenance Co., was one of the people in the room who stands ready to verify his story.

“Seconds after the first massive explosion below in the basement still rattled the floor, I hear another explosion from way above,” said Rodriguez. “Although I was unaware at the time, this was the airplane hitting the tower, it occurred moments after the first explosion.”

But before Rodriguez had time to think, co-worker Felipe David stormed into the basement office with severe burns on his face and arms, screaming for help and yelling “explosion! explosion! explosion!”

David had been in front of a nearby freight elevator on sub-level 1 about 400 feet from the office when fire burst out of the elevator shaft, causing his injuries.

“He was burned terribly,” said Rodriguez. “The skin was hanging off his hands and arms. His injuries couldn’t have come from the airplane above, but only from a massive explosion below. I don’t care what the government says, what scientists say. I saw a man burned terribly from a fire that was caused from an explosion below.

“I know there were explosives placed below the trade center. I helped a man to safety who is living proof, living proof the government story is a lie and a cover-up.

“I have tried to tell my story to everybody, but nobody wants to listen. It is very strange what is going on here in supposedly the most democratic country in the world. In my home country of Puerto Rico and all the other Latin American countries, I have been allowed to tell my story uncensored. But here, I can’t even say a word.”

After Rodriguez escorted David to safety outside the WTC, he returned to lead the others in the basement to safety as well. While there, he also helped two other men trapped and drowning in the basement elevator shaft, another result he says of the explosives placed below the tower.

In fact, after leading these men to safety, he even made another trip back into the north tower, against police orders, in order to rescue people from the top floors.

“I never could make it to the top, but I got up to the 33rd floor after getting some of my equipment and a face mask out of the janitor’s closet,” said Rodriguez, adding he heard a series of small explosions going off between the 20th and 30th floors, unrelated to the airplane strike, while making his way through the stairwell to the top floors.

“Also, when I was on the 33rd floor, I heard strange sounds coming from the 34th floor, loud noises like someone moving and thumping heavy equipment and furniture. I knew this floor was empty and stripped due to construction work so I avoided it and continued to make my way up the stairs.”

Rodriguez said he finally reached the 39th floor before being turned back by fire fighters and then, reluctantly, started his descent back down and his own flight to safety while, at the same time, hearing explosions coming from the South Tower.

## The Tragedy

The concerted effort by the media and the government to silence Rodriguez is the tragedy behind this American hero's story. And there is no question, Rodriguez is a “silent hero” for saving so many lives and for having the courage to continue telling his story against tremendous odds.

In an effort to open a fair and honest investigation as to why the WTC collapsed, Rodriguez has been ignored by government officials, the 9/11 Commission and the National Institute of Safety and Technology (NIST).

NIST, an independent investigative group funded by the government, put the finishing touches this week on its 2 year \$35 million 9/11 investigation. This week Rodriguez made his final plea to have his story heard while testifying at the final public hearing held in New York.

“I disagree 100% with the government story,” said Rodriguez. “I met with the 9/11 Commission behind closed doors and they essentially discounted everything I said regarding the use of explosives to bring down the north tower.

“And I contacted NIST previously four times without a response. Finally, this week I asked them before they came up with their conclusion that jet fuel brought down the towers, if they ever considered my statements or the statements of any of the other survivors who heard the explosions. They just stared at me with blank faces and didn't have any answers.

“Also, The FBI never followed up on my claims or on the other part of my story when I told them before 9/11, I encountered one of the hijackers casing the north tower.”

Besides the explosions, Rodriguez also has provided testimony to the 9/11 Commission that he stumbled across one of the supposed 19 Arab hijackers inside the WTC several months before 9/11

“I had just finished cleaning the bathroom and this guy asks me, ‘Excuse me, how many public bathrooms are in this area?’” Rodriguez told the 9/11 Commission. “Coming from the school of the 1993 [Trade Center] bombing, I found it very strange. I didn't forget about it”

Rodriguez, claims he saw United Airlines Flight 175 hijacker Mohand Alshehri in June 2001, telling an FBI agent about the incident a month after the attacks. Never hearing back from the bureau, he later learned agents never followed up on the story.

“I'm very certain, I'll give it 90%” that Alshehri was casing the towers before the attacks,” said Rodriguez.

Regarding the media's apathetic approach to his story, Rodriguez said immediately after 9/11 some newspapers picked it up but his words were never taken seriously and quickly forgotten.

"During the 9/11 hearings, NBC brought a crew out to my house and spent a day taping my story but they never did air a word of it," said Rodriguez. "Since then, some reporters and commentators have subtly warned me to keep quiet, told me my life could be in jeopardy and warned me that I really didn't understand who I was dealing with.

"I have been receiving this type of subtle harassment for years, but I keep telling everybody I can't be intimidated because I am on a mission. Whenever someone asks why I keep talking or warns me that I could be killed, I just tell them I have nothing to lose.

"I tell them I lost 200 friends and I am their voice now. I tell them I will do everything in my power to find out the truth since I am living on borrowed time since I probably should be dead anyway."

Besides trying to tell his explosive story, Rodriguez has been active raising money for 9/11 victims, being involved with charity groups that have raised more than \$122 million. He says he has used over \$60,000 of his own money, originally earmarked to buy a new house, in order to get at the truth behind 9/11.

Also seeking justice at the highest level, Rodriguez is the lead plaintiff in a federal RICO lawsuit filed against President Bush and others, alleging conspiracy to commit murder and other crimes in the deaths of more than 3,000 at the WTC.

The case, filed last November in a Philadelphia federal district court, recently was moved to New York in a change of venue after a government's motion to dismiss was overruled, allowing legal discovery to continue.

"Even if the case goes no farther, I feel we have scored a victory by winning this first battle," said Rodriguez. "At least the judge seems willing to listen which is a victory of sorts. However, I sincerely hope we can eventually take the case all the way to trial and reveal the truth to the American people about 9/11."



# A JANITOR'S HEROISM 'OPENS A LOT OF DOORS'

By BENJAMIN SMITH  
Staff Reporter of the Sun

Seated in a comfortable red chair in the studio of Telemundo, William Rodriguez puts on his television face and begins talking to the camera. "Sound check," he begins. "My name is William Rodriguez. I worked in the building for 20 years."

If you don't watch Spanish-language television or read *Hoy* or *El Diario*, you may not be familiar with Mr. Rodriguez's even soap opera features, his thick black hair, or camera-ready poses. But for Spanish-speakers in New York, his is the face of September 11. He has been on the front page of each of the tabloids this year, and he's on Spanish-language television just about every day.

Mr. Rodriguez has earned his renown. He was the man responsible for sweeping the stairs in Tower One, the north twin tower on September 11, he displayed astonishing courage, helping carry a badly burned man from the building and running back in twice to save more lives.

After the attacks, he founded the Hispanic Victims Group, a one-man show that covers everything from translating for survivors to helping them fill out applications to lobbying the federal government.

"He is an impressive individual," says Kenneth Feinberg, the government-appointed lawyer in charge of distributing money to victims. Mr. Rodriguez fought for months to win a letter from the Immigration and Naturalization Service assuring illegal immigrants they could accept compensation without fear of deportation.

"He went through everything with us," said Marina Arevalo, 56, a Peruvian immigrant whose son died in the attacks. "He orient us in situations where sometimes we are lost."

While Mr. Rodriguez has been good to his fellow survivors and victims, September 11 has, in a strange way, also been good for him. An amateur magician, an aspiring businessman, and a performer by nature, he had found himself in early middle age working as a janitor and

moonlighting as a computer technician. Now, he carries in the trunk of his car a photo album that holds pictures of himself with the governor of Puerto Rico, Sila Calderon, who named him a "national hero," with Senator Clinton, and, beaming, with President Bush.

"Being a hero has opened a lot of doors," he says. Like many, Mr. Rodriguez came to New York to improve himself. To be specific, he came to in 1982 to learn how to escape. He was an aspiring magician, and had not yet mastered the trick of escaping from strait jackets upside down.

"His English wasn't all that great at that time, but he had a great smile and he was very deft with his hands," recalled James Randi, a magician who saw him at a magicians' conference in New Jersey in the mid-1980s.

Mr. Randi, a debunker of psychics and faith healers, took Mr. Rodriguez on as an assistant in his campaign against charlatans. Mr. Rodriguez, with his cleaner's uniform and unlimited self-assurance, went back stage to gather intelligence on faith healers like W.V. Grant.

"He has always managed to do the impossible," Mr. Randi wrote of his pupil. Mr. Rodriguez says he learned so much that "I could start my own church and perform my own miracles."

But by the early 1990s, Mr. Randi had moved to Florida, and his apprentice had tired of magic. The job at the World Trade Center had also gotten more interesting: it consisted of cleaning the office of then-Governor Cuomo, and setting up the governor's press conferences.

But the bookshelves at Mr. Rodriguez's apartment in Jersey City are those of a man who thinks he can do better. His small, immaculate office — "I am a cleaner, you know" — is packed with books like "Talking the Winning Way" and "Twenty-Five Steps to Power and Mystery Over People."

The books had little to do with his day job: arriving at 8 a.m. and changing into his blue uniform in a basement locker room, Mr. Rodriguez would ride the elevator to Windows on the World, on the

107th floor. His friends who worked there — most of them are now dead — gave him a free breakfast, and by 8:30, he would be on the stairs with a broom, a duster, and a rag. Sweeping one of the building's three stairwells took three hours.

But Mr. Rodriguez got to work late the morning of September 11. He was still in the basement when the plane hit the tower. He thought a generator might have exploded when Felipe David ran in, screaming. Mr. David, who maintained the vending machines, was burned so badly the brown skin on his arms was white. Mr. Rodriguez took Mr. David's arm around his shoulder and ran out toward an ambulance.

Mr. Rodriguez looked up and saw the cloud of smoke. "I thought of the people at Windows," he says. Then he turned around and ran back into the basement. He isn't sure why. "Not because I wanted to do it or because it was the right thing to do — I was driven to do it," he says. A recycling

*'I had done TV before, so I knew how to manipulate the media.'*

worker told him there were screams coming from an elevator shaft. Mr. Rodriguez pried the door open and saw Salvatore Giambanco, a painter, standing one floor below in rising water. He ran to where workers kept their ladders, and found the tallest one unlocked. He passed it down to Mr. Giambanco.

"I never knew his name," Mr. Giambanco said; eventually, they were reunited for the Telemundo cameras.

Mr. Rodriguez's story — borne out by witnesses and those he helped — is amazing. And most unbelievably, he headed back into the building a third time. He saw firefighters in the lobby trying to open a locked door to the stairwell he cleaned, and he opened it with his master key. He raced up to the 39th floor

— opening doors along the way — until a police officer finally ordered him to leave.

Mr. Rodriguez says he was the last one to escape Tower One alive, and he's probably not far wrong. He ran from the building as it started to shake, and dived under a fire truck on West Street just in time to be hit with a blast of dust.

By the time the second tower collapsed, Mr. Rodriguez was already a hero. But it was television that made him a leader.

At 1:36 p.m., he was still on the scene, talking by cellular phone to CNN's Aaron Brown. "As I came out of the building, we hear the rumbling and I was told, run. When I look up, everything is coming down," he said, according to a CNN transcript.

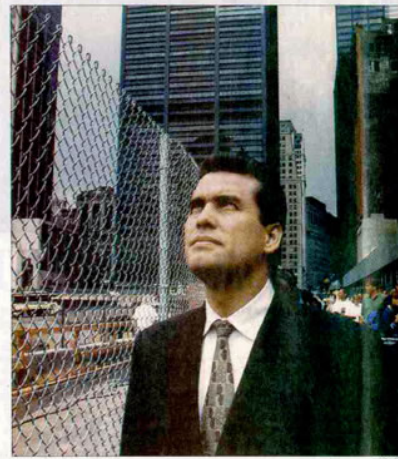
"And all of a sudden, it stopped. And we were pulled out from under the truck. But I know these officers didn't make it."

Someone nearby said, "Would you mind repeating that in Spanish," after one of Mr. Rodriguez's interviews; then someone from a Brazilian television station, he thinks, starting passing around his telephone number to members of the Spanish-language press.

When Mr. Rodriguez turned up at the temporary disaster assistance center at Pier 94 a few days later to seek help and get his bearings, he didn't expect to lead anything. But by then, his face had been all over the Spanish-language television stations. Immigrants, particularly those who spoke little or no English, spontaneously came to him for help.

"Everybody knew who I was," he marvels. And, from some of the workers, "I got more respect for having been on TV than for being a person who needed help."

Mr. Rodriguez is so comfortable on television that he's taken over as host of a Hispanic-themed show, in English, on NJN, New Jersey's public television station. He's also worked out an informal arrangement with Telemundo and Univision, he says. He's available to them at all times, and can use the stations to



**TRUE HERO** Trade Center maintenance man William Rodriguez saved many

help victims in particularly difficult situations, like one survivor of the towers who was an illegal immigrant caring for a disabled son.

"I had done TV before, so I knew how to manipulate the media," he says. "I give them something, and they give me something for the victims."

Mr. Rodriguez hasn't made any money with his newfound celebrity.

In fact, he is utterly broke: his landlord has stopped charging him rent and his car dealer is being flexible about the terms of the lease; but the cellular phone company and cable company have cut him off.

Last week he carried in his pocket a crisp, white Western Union receipt for

the \$300 his mother had just wire from Puerto Rico.

Although Mr. Rodriguez spends much of his time teaching uncared immigrants how to work through forms of compensation for September 11, he has refused to apply Federal Victims Compensation from which he, as a survivor, is entitled to benefits.

"I think the money should go to families," he says. "I would feel like taking advantage of the system in that way."

Mr. Rodriguez plans to be fundraiser today in a restored Q movie theater.

"Everything fit in the place it came from the beginning," he says.

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