



—United Press International

Bomb Experts Check Over Car Belonging to Spanish Radio Station WQBA
... news director lost lower part of legs in the blast, police said

Cuban Newsman Is Maimed As Bomb Explodes in Car

By EDNA BUCHANAN
And DOROTHY GAITER
Herald Staff Writers

A bomb planted under the hood of his station wagon shattered the legs of the news director of Spanish-language radio station WQBA in Little Havana Friday night.

Emilio Milian, 45, who had editorialized against terrorism and violence in Miami, stepped out of the station after a show, got into his WQBA car, turned on the ignition and the device detonated at 7:17 p.m.

Late Friday doctors at Jackson Memorial Hospital amputated both of Milian's legs below the knees, and at 2 a.m. today he was still in surgery, the hospital said. His condition was described as "serious but stable."

Moments before the explosion,

Milian had been approached in the parking lot by Rosa Delgado and three friends who had found a little lost boy. Miss Delgado, who attends Garces Commercial College on the first floor of the concrete-block building that houses the radio station, had explained the little boy's plight to Milian and he told them the station would call police.

THEN HE TURNED on the ignition. Miss Delgado and her friends were 10 feet away.

"There was dark smoke and flames. I tried to open the door but it was too hot. I told him to help me help him. His eyes were full of pain," Miss Delgado said.

"He kept shaking his hands. He didn't say anything. He was bloody all over. He pulled up his leg to show me he couldn't move. His leg

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Emilio Milian

... critical

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appeared to be severed below the knee. He was just looking at me."

Albert Miguel, 20, who was passing when he saw the hood of Milian's car hurled 100 feet in the air, ran to help. With two of Garces students he tried to open the car door but it was jammed.

Milian, still conscious, asked them: "Get me out."

"I couldn't open the door so I grabbed him by the belt and by his leg. His leg, both his legs were gone," Miguel said.

He and the others lifted Milian from the car.

"He's a brave man," said Professor Herbert Garcia of the college. "He didn't cry. He saw his legs, but he didn't cry. He was trying to get up."

Garcia said Milian pounded the pavement with his fists in anger and agony.

"He's one of the best," Garcia said of the broadcaster, whose station has the largest audience of any station in the metropolitan area. "He's a leader against Fidel Castro and leftists. Of course that's why this happened."

Miami City Commissioner J.L. Plummer, nearby when the explosion rocked the neighborhood, arrived then and was credited by firemen with saving Milian's life.

Milian recognized Plummer at once, as the commissioner worked to stop the bleeding.

"I was afraid he would bleed to death. He said: 'Plummer, the pain is very bad. Do something for the pain.' I told him I was doing everything I could," Plummer said.

Homicide Detectives Anthony Dagger and Ina Shepard arrived minutes after the blast, while firemen, who were still working on Milian, put him into a "shock suit" that forces blood up into the vital organs, preventing the victim from lapsing into shock.

Detective Dagger said Milian had been the target of "many threats in past months after his editorials against the terrorists here in town."

Police had a watch order on Milian's home.

Maj. Phil Doherty said the bomber apparently planted the device under the station wagon's hood during daylight hours in the WQBA parking lot. Milian had driven it home for lunch.

Milian, who was born Sept. 8, 1930 in Cuba's Las Villas Province, had come to this country in 1965. He opened a print shop and worked parttime as a sports commentator for the station that later would become WQBA. In 1971, he became news director. He also directed the station's programming.

At Jackson Memorial, Milian's wife Enma Mirta, two sons, a daughter, his elderly father and two sisters maintained a vigil late Friday night as surgeons operated.

MILIAN'S son, Alberto, 15, said the death threats his father received were all the same. "They told him to shut up, to stop criticizing the bombings or they would murder him. He felt it was his right to criticize. He took precautions. He was not afraid.

"He had a gun, but he never looked under his car," young Milian said. "He told us when his day came, it would come." His father, he said, was angry "at the stupid idiots who were bombing."

Two days ago, the family said, a white car passed their home, stopped in front and someone got out. Milian reported the suspicious vehicle and its occupants to police and asked for protection.

After the Milian bombing Friday, Miami fire officials investigated a fire that gutted the 45-foot commercial fishing boat El Brabo at the Merrill-Stevens Dry Dock on the Miami River at 12th Avenue. There was no immediate evidence that the fire resulted from a bomb or that it was connected to the Miami incident, they said.

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Big Reward Is Offered In Bombing

By SANDI REED
And CHERYL BROWNSTEIN
Herald Staff Writer

Susquehanna Broadcasting Co. Saturday offered a \$25,000 reward for information leading to the conviction of the persons responsible for the bombing that shattered the legs of Emilio Milian, news director for Spanish-language radio station WOBA.

The station also broadcast hourly editorials pleading with listeners to provide information about the bombing. The editorial said, in part, "Why this covert action against a man who loves Cuba and works in the open? If every person who speaks in the name of justice and liberty is going to be a victim of bombs, then we are not living in a community, but in a jungle."

Milian frequently spoke out against a recent wave of terrorism and violence in Dade County's Cuban community.

AFTER THE reward was posted, Miami homicide investigators reported "quite a few" anonymous tips but said they had no suspects and few leads into the Friday night bombing.

We have appealed to the public," Detective Anthony Daggar said. "Anyone who was in the area of the station who saw anything or heard anything should call us."

Milian, 45, was in serious condition Saturday in Jackson Memorial Hospital's surgical intensive care unit. The bomb under the hood of his station wagon exploded as he started the car Friday night outside the radio station. Both of his legs were amputated below the knee. He also underwent surgery for minor cuts to his left hand and the left side of his face.

The two surgery waiting rooms on the third floor of the main hospital building were filled with relatives and friends Saturday, including Milian's elderly parents, Emilio Sr. and Maria.

MILIAN'S SISTER, Fahir, said their parents are "in delicate health" and had not been told the nature of their son's injuries. "We feel that they would not be able to stand (it)," she said.

Alberto Milian, 15, another of Mi-

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Station Offers Reward For Bombing Conviction

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lian's three children, also waited.

Alberto wiped his eyes with a handkerchief as he recounted how his father had silently made a cutting motion with his hand across the top of his legs following the surgery.

"He is very strong and a young man," Alberto said. "They say that there is a slight chance that he will be able to walk."

"The important thing, I think, is that he wants these people to be caught."

THE YOUTH was outraged by the inability of law enforcement authorities to prevent the attack, although they were aware of frequent threats against Milian and other WOBA staff members.

"The police departments and other agencies ought to do something," Alberto said.

Detective Daggar said Miami police had issued a "watch order" for Milian's home and the radio station as a result of past threats.

A "watch order" means that "periodically, the car in the area checks it out," Daggar said.

Alberto also was angry with the FBI, although the agency said it is not actively involved in investigating the bombing.

"I wish that the stupid FBI would get off their cans and do some-

thing," Alberto said. "They gave us a tape recorder to record the threatening phone calls. And it didn't even work. That's how efficient they are."

AN FBI spokesman said Saturday that he knew nothing about the tape recorder. The agency had offered its crime laboratory and also offered to pursue leads outside Florida.

Miami police said they are uncertain if the bombing of Milian's car is related to recent bombings of other prominent Cuban leaders.

"We don't know if they're connected," Daggar said. "There have been so many of them that right now we're not sure if this one is related to any other."

The specific type of bomb that exploded in Milian's car still is unknown. It blew up as Milian turned on the ignition in the WOBA parking lot at 1301 SW First Ave.

Police and fire investigators also are unsure if the bombing is connected to a late Friday night fire on a yacht.

The yacht, moored at NW 12th Avenue and 11th Street, was destroyed by fire about 9:30 p.m. Friday. A fire department spokesman said the fire may have been caused by a bomb-like device, but the investigation is continuing.

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