



TV

UNITED NATIONS NATIONS UNIES

UN IN ACTION

Release Date: May 2010

Programme No. 1240

Length: 5'18"

Languages: English, French, Spanish, Russian

HAITI: UNSUNG HEROES

VIDEO

YACHIM MAIGA ON CAMERA

YACHIM AT DESK IN TV OFFICE

YACHIM ON CAMERA

ARCHIVE FOOTAGE:

STORY: HAITI/UNIFEED

AERIAL PHOTOS

AUDIO

YACHIM MAIGA: (French) **M**

"At the moment the earthquake happened, the whole team was with me, each one inside their offices, or in the studio." (5.5)

NARRATION

Yachim Maiga, from Mali, is Chief of the television unit at the United Nations mission in Haiti, MINUSTAH. It was ten to five in the afternoon and he was on the phone with his daughter, who studies abroad in Morocco. Suddenly, he felt the ground start to tremble. (16.4)

YACHIM MAIGA: (French) **M**

"At first, I thought it was a big truck going past because when trucks pass my window, it makes the whole building shake! I told my daughter to hold on and when I looked out of the window and didn't see a truck, I realized it was an earthquake. (14.15)

NARRATION

Within seconds, the main UN office building,

FOOTAGE FROM MINUSTAH

the Hotel Christopher, collapsed killing 101 UN employees and trapping many others under the mountains of rubble. It was the largest tragedy in a single day, in the organizations history. (15.4)

And just feet away from the Christopher, was the fully-staffed video-unit's office. (4.5)

YACHIM ON CAMERA

YACHIM MAIGA: (French) **M**

"I couldn't stay standing up at first, so I came out crawling. The door was about 20 metres away – it was open, everything was open! Fortunately, in just about 10 seconds, the 10 people who were in the office at the time, all got out. (13.5)

BLAGO ON CAMERA

BLAGOJE GRUJIC: (English) **M**

"We couldn't see anything for the dust but we actually ran up there, to the front at the main entrance ...// we figures out that everything is down. (7.68)

BLAGO FILMING

NARRATION

Blago Grujic, from Serbia, has been a cameraman with the unit for 2 years. (4.5)

BLAGO ON CAMERA

BLAGOJE GRUJIC: (English) **M**

"I ran to the parking lot to see that my girlfriend's car is not there because she was on the way to the Christopher and to make sure that she is not in the building and maybe after I went to my office to pick up my camera and started filming." (16.4)

ARCHIVE

NARRATION

The images that Blago shot of the disaster were some of the first to hit TV screens around the world. (5.7)

TRACKING SHOT, CAMERA GOING
THROUGH RUBBLE AT UNHQ

BLAGOJE GRUJIC: (English) **M**

“On the back side of the Christopher, the whole roof had collapsed at an angle so we were able to climb up and then I filmed on the way up” (5.47)

OTHER SHOTS OF RESCUE
OPERATIONS AT UNHQ AT NIGHT

NAT SND: UNIFEED: HAITI/EARTHQUAKE

1

13 January

BLAGO ON CAMERA

BLAGOJE GRUJIC: (English) **M**

“Afterwards, I had to stop because I needed a light to communicate with people who were stuck under the concrete, so I took off my camera light and battery and give it to them.” (8.1)

SHOTS OF DEVASTATION AND
EARLY CHAOS ON STREETS OF
PORT AU PRINCE

NARRATION

As rescuers worked through the night and following days, desperately trying to save the hundreds of people feared trapped inside, Blago and his colleagues continued to put out stories, not just on the tragedy at the UN but also on the desperate chaos on the streets. (16.4)

DEAD BODIES IN TRUCKS/ AT
ROADSIDE

Their images shocked the world. (1.6)

Port au Prince, the capital city, was devastated – an estimated 300,000 people

PEOPLE AMONGST RUINS OF THEIR HOMES were killed in those 35 seconds when the earth writhed. Almost 2 million were left homeless. Thousands were trapped - their screams echoed as families and neighbours battled ceaselessly to drag them from the rubble. The total dereliction in some parts of the city resembled scenes from the aftermath of a nuclear bomb. (31.9)

IMAGES OF INJURED, MAKESHIFT HOSPITALS, RESCUE OPERATIONS,

For the following days and weeks, the MINUSTAH video-unit ALSO worked non-stop to supply the world with images of the tragedy. (8.1)

YACHIM ON CAMERA

YACHIM MAIGA: (French) **M**
"Time stopped for us, and since then, it started – every day, on the streets, we film, we send the stories, we film again – right up until today!" (8.75)

ARCHIVE - PEOPLE LIVING IN TENTS

NARRATION
And like many survivors of the earthquake, the trauma of losing loved ones and colleagues was compounded by also losing their homes. Even many of the buildings still standing are now cracked and deemed too dangerous to live in. So, many people, UN staff included, sleep outside. MINUSTAH TV Producer, Agathe Fabien and her 12 year old son, Henri-Leonard, are amongst them. (29.6)

DAMAGED HOUSES

AGATHE AND SON IN TENT

AGATHE ON CAMERA

AGATHE FABIEN: (French) **F**
"Everybody's in the same situation, in tents.

Many of my friends have joined us here. Because, when you're in a group, when you're together, it's easier to stand the situation."(9.7)

BLAGO WALKS TO TENT

NARRATION

Yachim and Blago also either sleep in the car or in tents outside the temporary office space at the provisional UN base. Although exhausted, Blago is philosophical about the situation. (11.6)

BLAGO ON CAMERA

BLAGOJE GRUJIC: (English) **M**

"It's quite fine because you avoid morning traffic, you avoid evening traffic – you get a nice breeze in the evening and so it's quite cool, quite nice." (8.5)

ARCHIVE OF RESCUE OPERATIONS, HOMELESS, INJURED.

NARRATION

The images that the team shot were shown on thousands of TV stations, and reached millions of viewers around the world. They were a tragic illustration of the scale of the catastrophe, opening peoples' hearts and purses to the plight of the Haitian people. (15.9)

UN LOGO

This report was produced by Gill Fickling for the United Nations.