One Year After Bin Laden Death, Sept. 11 Survivor Speaks

Michelle Rosado escaped from the 95th floor of the World Trade Center during the attack

By Willard Shepard

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One year after Osama Bin Laden was killed by Navy Seals in Pakistan, a Sept. 11th survivor still doesn’t feel at peace.

“I think society as a whole felt that when Osama Bin Laden was killed, that there would be some type of relief,” said Michelle Rosado, who escaped from the 95th floor of the World Trade Center during the attack. “The only thing that I felt personally is that I didn’t find any relief.”

Rosado and many others waited ten years to hear that the head of the terror network that attacked the U.S. had been killed, but she said that she still thinks about the lives lost.

“It didn’t change anything,” she said. “It didn’t change the fact that people had been gone.”

Rosado, who feels the country will always have to deal with terrorism, became an author and motivational speaker after the attacks led by Bin Laden.

“He was a symbol of terrorism, but we all can all move forward from that symbolism by just being ourselves and just knowing we can move on from any type of tragedy,” she said.

Security experts say South Florida’s ports, airports, and diversity and the situations in some Latin nations make the region a potential target for Al-Qaida, but Florida Atlantic University professor and terrorism expert Robert Rabil said that Bin Laden’s death has hurt Al-Qaida’s ability to attack.

“By the United States eliminating Osama Bin Laden and eliminating a good number of Al-Qaida operatives, that’s exactly what happened,” said Rabil. “We have degraded the operational links between Al-Qaida and Al-Qaida affiliated organizations.”