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## Crash Survivor Recounts Problem Before Flight

By Daniel Woolls The Associated Press

MADRID, Spain — The airliner that crashed last week in Madrid had just barely got airborne and its right wing dipped sharply before the plane started wobbling and went down, one of the few survivors of the disaster said Saturday.

Ligia Palomino Riveros, a 42-year-old Colombianborn Spaniard, also told The Associated Press that after a seemingly minor technical malfunction forced the pilot to abandon a first takeoff attempt, she thought the airline was going to — and should — switch planes.

She said two buses were brought in next to the Spanair MD-82 bound for the Canary Islands, and she assumed these were to take passengers to another plane.

The Spanair mechanic who dealt with the breakdown — a faulty air temperature gauge near the cockpit — and certified the plane as ready to fly has been questioned by police and crash investigators, Spanair confirmed Saturday.

Only 19 people survived Wednesday's tragedy at Madrid's airport, which killed 153 people. Riveros, who suffered a broken leg and a broken rib, was traveling with her husband Jose Flores, who also survived, and his sister, who died.

A combination of failures likely caused the crash, he said.

Riveros said after the pilot announced the problem had been corrected, people seemed to relax, herself included. Before that, though, when she first saw the buses, she expected the plane to be evacuated.

"I thought that if there was something wrong, the right thing to do is switch planes," she said. "I told my husband they should put us on another plane."