

# UAE doctors dodge bullets on frontline

## Medics treat Libyan fighters as bloody gun battles intensify

By Michelle Sutton

UAE medical workers have told of the harrowing scenes they witnessed on the frontline in the battle for Libya.

One minute they would be dodging bullets as they tried to stitch people's limbs back on and the next they were patching up the very men who had been trying to kill them.

However, they realised it was not just the physical wounds that needed healing but also the psychological ones caused by the months of bloody fighting.

Dr Salahdeen Abusnana, from University Hospital Sharjah, led a group of doctors and nurses in Libya last month in Colonel Gaddafi's hometown of Sirte. The team was part of the UAE's Libya Stabilisation Team.

The city has been the site of some of the war's toughest battles and, more than six weeks after anti-Gaddafi fighters seized the capital Tripoli, it has still not fallen completely.

Abusnana said: "There were bullets coming as snipers fired at the freedom fighters who



**BLOODSHED:** An injured fighter is carried from the battlefield in Libya to receive medical treatment

themselves were firing at Gaddafi's fighters, but we were just too busy to notice."

Abusnana told how his team desperately tried to save the lives of hundreds of men and women. "As a doctor you just see the injured person before you regardless," he said.

He was working in a field hospital in Sirte with little supplies, treating 30 people a day.

Another UAE resident who has been helping in Libya is Fadwa Al Mughairbi, head of psychology at UAE University. Last month, she led trauma workshops for civilians in Libya about post traumatic stress disorder (PTSD).

"There was the sound of bullets being fired all around us, but there was too much work to worry about safety," she said.

Al Mughairbi said it was something she needed to do, as she has Libyan ancestry and her 16-year old nephew was fighting for Libya's freedom. She had also lost relatives caught up in the conflict.

"It wasn't a choice, it was a calling. I couldn't do much, but at least I could tell them what they were experiencing was normal - some cried when they heard that," she said.

Al Mughairbi said she paid her own expenses for the trip and knows of some UAE professionals who are sending their monthly wages back to family in Libya.

*michelle.sutton@7days.ae*

### NEWS IN BRIEF

#### Syria blocks war tribunal request

**SYRIA:** Damascus has rejected demands for it to join the world's first permanent war crimes tribunal, release political prisoners and allow unrestricted access to aid groups and medical workers.

Syria's comments are included in a report by the UN Human Rights Council as part of its check-up on all UN member nations. Syria agreed, however, with calls for it to stop torture and investigate the deaths of thousands of peaceful protesters.

#### Militants attack governor's rally

**PAKISTAN:** Two missiles were fired at a rally which was led by the head of Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa province, killing one person and wounding four. The governor was not hurt, security officials said.

Governor Masood Kasur was about to address Pashtun tribal leaders when the rally was attacked in Kalaya, a town in the Orakzai region.

There was no claim of responsibility for the attack but the Pakistani Taliban operate in the area.

#### Army blamed for Christian deaths

**EGYPT:** About 20,000 mourners chanted slogans denouncing the ruling military during a funeral procession for 17 Christians killed in a Cairo protest.

They accused the army of bearing responsibility for the worst violence since Egypt's uprising.

The incident, which occurred on Sunday and left 26 dead and 500 hurt, began when thousands of Coptic Christians marched to stage a sit-in over a recent attack on a church.

MEDWIN MEDICAL CENTRE





**Dr. Youssef Ibrahim**  
MBChB, MRCP, MRCPsych  
General Practitioner



**Dr. Sarah Al-Fayez**  
MBChB, MRCP  
General Practitioner



**Dr. Mohamed Elshorbagy**  
MBChB, MRCP  
General Practitioner



**Dr. Hisham Al-Sayid**  
MBChB, MRCP  
General Practitioner

Get the medical attention and care you need at Medwin Medical Centre. Our pediatric willow prisms refractive and advanced technology across all services. With multiple treatment and vision options, you are assured of privacy, cleanliness and comfort.

We have brought medical specialists from Germany and Europe. Board right into our office in the heart of Jumeirah.

Together, we work toward exceeding expectations in patient care. Expect nothing less than world class customer service and treatment.

**Our Specialties:**  
Ear, nose & throat, Ophthalmology & Geriatrics, Pediatrics, General Surgery, Urology & Andrology, Audiology, Medical Treatment, General Medicine, Anesthesiology, Pediatric Psychiatry.

**J. YOUSSEF IBRAHIM**  
Vila 11, Jumeirah 1,  
Dubai Street,  
Dubai, United Arab Emirates  
1001

**SARAH AL-FAYEZ**  
Vila 11, Jumeirah 1,  
Dubai Street, 11 Street,  
Dubai,  
UAE, 0000

**Dr. Mohamed Elshorbagy**  
Vila 11, Jumeirah 1,  
Dubai Street, 11 Street,  
Dubai,  
UAE, 0000

## Buffalo race is a beast

**JOCKEYS** sized each other up as they competed during Chonburi's annual buffalo race festival in Thailand. The event, which also celebrates the rice harvest, dates back to the buffalo trade in Chonburi, once the trade centre of Thailand's east.

The water buffalo plays a significant role in agriculture in Thailand and the yearly spectacle pitches the beasts against each other in a number of traditional races and contests.

Buffalo owners go to huge lengths to ensure their beasts are well-groomed and in tip-top condition to be in with a chance of winning the various prizes up for grabs. The contest took place nearly 75km southeast of Bangkok.



**HEAD TO HEAD:** Competitors at the yearly event in Chonburi, Thailand

The key to a successful career

Providing the world's finest Universities and Colleges under one roof

Visit



**INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION SHOW**

**12 - 14 October 2011**

Expo Centre Sharjah

[www.educationshow.ae](http://www.educationshow.ae)

**Show Highlights:**

- Participation of around 70 institutions of higher learning from Canada, Germany, India, Malaysia, Oman, Ireland, Switzerland, UK, USA and UAE
- A wide range of under-graduate, post-graduate and vocational courses to choose from
- A host of short-term certificate courses
- Seminars and presentations from many institutions

**SHOW TIMINGS:**  
12th & 13th Oct: 10am - 5pm & 1pm - 5pm  
Friday 14th Oct: 1pm - 5pm

