

WAR-TORN: The UAE is helping wounded men like this Libyan rebel soldier



Libyan troops get UAE help

Hospital to treat soldiers wounded in war

By Michelle Sutton

DOZENS of seriously wounded Libyan soldiers are to be flown to the UAE for treatment as part of international efforts to get the battle-weary country back on its feet.

Yesterday the UAE Libya Relief Team, led by Libya Ambassador Aref Ali Nayed, outlined the work carried out over the past six months.

Crisis team member Dr Salahdeen Abusnana, from Sharjah University Hospital, told 7DAYS about 30 Libyans - rebel fighters and Gaddafi troops - would likely receive treatment at Rashid Hospital in Dubai.

"Some of them were freedom fighters and others fought in the Gaddafi regime. The injuries are massive and everyone is affected," he said.

Injuries are mostly serious, including lost limbs, meaning several operations are needed and it is expected that the injured will stay in the UAE for

about two months, Abusnana said. Plans had yet to be finalised, but they could arrive as soon as next week.

The move is the latest in a series of initiatives by the UAE to help the newly-recognised Libyan government. These include financial support to get the oil, water and energy supplies back online. About 250 people from the Emirati Red Cross, have also been part of the medical team on the ground.

The UAE has also been praised for other support, such as the use of its planes to enforce a no-fly zone and donating police cars and uniforms as well as providing training and support.

"We are still working on zero funds and zero budget, it's all been voluntary. There are no salaries," Nayed said.

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Uncle in abuse claim

A SEVEN-YEAR-OLD girl caught the sexually-transmitted disease gonorrhoea after being abused by her uncle, Dubai Court of First Instance has been told.

The girl's mother was stunned when she was told by doctors in May that the child had the disease after taking her to a clinic because she was unwell. The defendant, a 31-year-old Emirati sailor, who failed to show yesterday, is accused of sneaking into her room and committing sexual acts.

The mother said her daughter initially refused to tell her what had happened but eventually told her what her uncle had done. "He threatened to hurt her if she didn't do what he wanted," she added. The case has been adjourned until next month.

'Get tougher on speeding'

... continued from cover

Al Mansoor's call was echoed by road safety campaigner Lesley Cully, who runs Buckle Up in the Back. She said: "Fines are not a prevention, the system's not working. I would like to see a consistent, tougher approach. I think there should be more of a black points system."

The Interior Ministry, which released the latest death toll, has yet to respond to questions from 7DAYS about whether it is considering changing the law. However, in a statement issued earlier, it revealed that 485 people had died in road accidents in the UAE in the first eight months of 2011 - an average of two deaths every day. Of these, 316 were aged between 18 and 40, 65 per cent of all fatalities. A further 5,266 people were injured.

The toll is down on the same period for last year, when 550 people died.

The ministry said the fall was due to road safety schemes. But, Colonel Ghaith Al Zaabi, the head of the Traffic Coordination Department, said many drivers were still ignoring the warnings.

"Driving at high speed is very common, especially among young people.

"The majority of accidents are caused by speeding. Many of these accidents have resulted in deaths or serious injuries. Sometimes innocent road users have been the victims," he said. The ministry promised to intensify law enforcement across the country, although it did not specify how. However, Abu Dhabi Traffic Police recently reported a 26 per cent drop in accidents after it put more patrols on the roads to catch speeders.