

Introduction

International Medical Corps provided medical care to evacuees from Misurata



At the Dehibat border, there are reports of 200 Gaddafi force attack vehicles heading towards the rebel held border area. International Medical Corps medical team remains on standby at the Dehibat hospital to treat any casualties if fighting ensues.

Attacks continue in Misurata, with missile explosions occurring today at the port and airport areas. There are unconfirmed reports that this morning a helicopter, assumed to be operated by Gaddafi forces was spotted above the port. This was followed by another missile attack on the port and reports of the distribution of smaller explosive devices around the port,

reportedly further sea mines, which were carried by the wind to land, resulting in three deaths at the port. These deaths have not been confirmed. Later in the day, however, the port was given the all clear.

According to IOM, 717,819 people have now fled Libya through the various borders since the unrest began.

As of May 06, 2011:

LIBYA/TUNISIA BORDER AREA

At the Ra's Ajdir border, there is an increase in the migration of Libyans and third country nationals into Tunisia. International Medical Corps border health post is providing consultations to approximately 50-75 patients a day to those requiring medical care upon entering Tunisia.

At the Dehibat border, International Medical Corps health post continues to provide services at the Dehibat Hospital and medical teams are on standby in anticipation of fighting at the border. It has been established that the Tunisian military is responsible for initial triage of any injured casualties who will refer to International Medical Corps as needed for further treatment.

WESTERN LIBYA

The Tunisia based team are planning to shortly send a large amount of needed medical supplies to both the Nalut and Zintan hospitals. Nalut is the larger hospital of the two, with the majority of trauma and orthopaedic cases in the region received at this hospital, and more minor cases generally received at the Zintan facility.

As medical needs continue due to the ongoing violence in Misurata, International Medical Corps has sent additional medical supplies to meet needs to provide care for casualties received on a daily basis. International Medical Corps' medical team continues to provide assistance and support in the operating theatres of Misurata hospitals. During the period April 25 to May 5, International Medical Corps' team in Misurata assisted in more than 46 major operations and stabilized more than 78 critical patients injured in the conflict.

Yesterday, in addition to escorting wounded patients to the IOM ship for evacuation, members of International Medical Corps' medical team also conducted a second visit to the camp for third country national migrant workers, located near the port. They provided primary health care to the migrant workers, examining 44 patients and transferring two injured to the IOM ship for evacuation.

To provide assistance for the over-stretched capacity of hospitals, International Medical Corps is planning to send a field hospital to Misurata, which will be fully equipped to provide medical care, and will be attached to the current hospital in order to accommodate additional patients as needed. As the need for medical evacuations continues, methods to provide ongoing medical evacuations from Misurata are also explored by the International Medical Corps teams in collaboration with different partners.

Planning is currently underway to conduct a weeklong workshop in first aid for the ambulance staff in Misurata.

EASTERN LIBYA

International Medical Corps yesterday provided medical care for 38 wounded patients aboard the IOM evacuation boat from Misurata through to health facilities in Benghazi.

International Medical Corps is planning to develop and expand rehabilitation services in Benghazi and Misurata, given the numbers of people wounded in the conflict that are increasing daily. Efforts to establish a multidisciplinary and comprehensive rehabilitation center in Benghazi for victims of the conflict is a priority. Such a center would provide rehabilitation services to those who have suffered amputations and other massive orthopedic trauma, spinal cord injuries, head trauma and psychological trauma. The benefits of a major rehabilitation center would flow to those requiring rehabilitation services, not affected by the war, such as trauma, strokes and long-term disabilities.

Given the additional burden placed on hospitals in Benghazi by the patients from Misurata and with critical nursing shortages already being faced, International Medical Corps is planning to provide additional support to hospitals through the provision of further doctors and nurses.

International Medical Corps is continuing in efforts to source a short term supply of urgently needed ARV and TB medications with assistance from GIK partners for two facilities in Benghazi providing care for HIV-infected and TB patients.



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