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## **Muslim Charities Forum representatives visit Libya**

**Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2011**

Representatives from the Muslim Charities Forum member organisations have visited Libya to assess the developing crisis in the country.

Islamic Relief, Muslim Hands, Human Appeal International and Human Relief Foundation are currently present at the Libya-Tunisia border where thousands of people are waiting to leave Libya to return to their home countries.

Alongside these organisations, Dr. Hany El-Banna OBE and Syed Lakhte Hassanain, respectively Chairman and Secretary of the Muslim Charities Forum are also in the country assessing situation.

“There is an urgent need to safely evacuate thousands of civilians of different origins who have lived and worked in Libya for years. They are stranded, afraid for their lives and to be mistaken for mercenaries hired by the authorities.”

According to UNOCHA estimates, Libya is estimated to host 1.5 millions migrants. In addition to 1 million Egyptians working in Libya, the country also hosted before the crisis 80,000 Pakistanis, 59,000 Sudanese, 50,000 Bangladeshis, 26,000 Filipinos, 2,000 Nepalese. There are also reported to be 2,500 Somali migrants stranded in Tripoli.

Telecommunications and internet connections are also sporadic making it difficult for aid agencies to coordinate their efforts.

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### **Notes for Editors**

The Muslim Charities Forum is an umbrella organisation for Muslim-led NGOs based in the UK. Our members include Human Appeal International, Human Relief Foundation, Islamic Relief and Muslim Hands.

For more information about the work of the Muslim Charities Forum please contact Mohammad Shakir on 020 7368 1645 or email [mshakir@muslimcharitiesforum.org.uk](mailto:mshakir@muslimcharitiesforum.org.uk).