

The Telegraph

Libya: Netherlands gives £87 million of frozen assets to WHO

The Dutch government has given 100 million euros (£87 million) in frozen Libyan assets to the World Health Organisation to distribute medicine to the Libyan people.



Rebel soldiers pose for photos near the entrance of the town of Brega, Libya Photo: AP/Alexandre Meneghini

12:18AM BST 16 Aug 2011

Ward Bezemer, a foreign ministry spokesman confirmed the amount had been unfrozen, adding it was only a fraction of Libya's assets seized by the Dutch government in March.

Mr Bezemer said Dutch Foreign Minister Uri Rosenthal told a press conference reserved for Dutch media he was delighted to offer the money to the UN health agency.

"I always say sanctions must cut off the regime and not the population," Mr Rosenthal said. "That is exactly what's happening here now: Gaddafi's frozen money is being used to save Libyan lives."

Mr Bezemer said the money would be mainly used to buy treatment for diabetic patients, medicines against heart disease and provide surgical equipment.

The aid would go to "Benghazi, Misurata and other places where the rebels are in charge but also to where the fighting was still going on," Mr Bezemer said.

[Gaddafi fires scud missile at rebels](http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/africaandindianocean/libya/8703041/Col-Gaddafi-fires-scud-missile-at-rebel-territory-as-Nato-braces-itself-for-final-violent-showdown.html)

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[Downing Street powerless to force return of Lockerbie bomber](http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/africaandindianocean/libya/8702557/Downing-Street-powerless-to-force-return-of-Lockerbie-bomber.html)

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[Gaddafi urges Libyans to 'liberate' country from Nato](http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/africaandindianocean/libya/8701474/Gaddafi-urges-Libyans-to-liberate-country-from-Nato.html)

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[Gaddafi urges Libyans to 'get ready for the](http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/africaandindianocean/libya/libya-video/8701632/Col-Gaddafi-urges-Libyans-to-get-ready-for-the-fight.html)

[fight'](http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/africaandindianocean/libya/libya-video/8701632/Col-Gaddafi-urges-Libyans-to-get-ready-for-the-fight.html) (<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/africaandindianocean/libya/libya-video/8701632/Col-Gaddafi-urges-Libyans-to-get-ready-for-the-fight.html>)

"It was an urgent request by the WHO," added the spokesman, saying the Netherlands used Libyan money from Dutch bank accounts after receiving the green light from the United Nations.

Some 3.1 billion euros in Libyan assets were frozen by the Dutch government in March.

The Netherlands, Belgium and Luxembourg in mid-June recognised the National Transitional Council as the Libyan people's legitimate representative.

Dutch support for NATO's Libya campaign was extended until September 1, when a decision would be taken on further support, the defense ministry said.

Six Dutch F-16 warplanes have taken part in enforcing a no-fly zone over the north African country since the end of March, but did not fly bombing missions.

Apart from fighter planes, the Dutch warship Haarlem has also taken part in the NATO operation by patrolling Libyan waters and enforcing an arms embargo, the ministry added.

Coinciding with the rebels' renewed push, defence sources have told The Daily Mail that British warplanes had begun a 'Walls of Jericho' strategy targeting Col Gaddafi's homes as well as the known addresses of his 10 closest aides, in reference to the biblical story where an invading army wins by forcing the city walls to collapse.

"We are literally making Gaddafi's walls come tumbling down", the source said.