

KENYON

EMERGENCY SERVICES

CASE STUDY

Aircraft Accident

BACKGROUND

In 2010, a runway crash at a Libyan airport resulted in the death of 103 people, the majority of whom were Dutch citizens. As a result of meetings with the airline, a Kenyon client, and the Libyan Government, Kenyon was requested to conduct a full operational response. This included deceased victim identification, family assistance centre and support, deceased repatriation and management of personal effects. Kenyon also opened its Crisis Management Centre (CMC) in the UK to support the operation.

CHALLENGES

The National Dutch Disaster Victim Identification (DVI) team was deployed to the incident site with instructions from Dutch officials to conduct the identification procedures on all Dutch citizens killed in the incident.

INTERPOL international protocol places the responsibility of identifying all deceased from mass casualty incidents with the authorities from the country where the incident occurs,

in this case the Libyan Government. Kenyon had been engaged by the airline and the Libyan Government to identify all deceased killed as result of the incident.

Dutch officials had advised the Dutch families of the victims not to travel to the incident site, where the Family Assistance Centre (FAC) had been set up by Kenyon.



SOLUTIONS

At the incident site, immediate discussions occurred between Kenyon, the airline, the Libyan Government, the Dutch DVI Team and Dutch Foreign Affairs to clarify respective roles and responsibilities. An agreement was reached that the Dutch DVI team would perform the post mortem and identification of the deceased, supported by Kenyon.

The Dutch DVI team conducted the post mortem process on behalf of the Libyan authorities. The issue of death certificates and the formal identification of the 103 deceased were conducted by the Libyan authorities.

One day after the accident, a team of approximately 20 Kenyon personnel were dispatched from the UK to the incident site including an incident assessment team, operational specialists and a core group of Family Assistance personnel. Kenyon provided forensic odontologists, data management support and oversight to the DVI operation.

Also one day after the accident, a FAC was set up by Kenyon at a hotel near the incident site.

The FAC provided a private, secure facility for family members of the victims who traveled to the incident site, including accommodation, meals, conference and meeting facilities. Family members were provided 24/7 assistance and support from the Kenyon Special Assistance Associate Responders allocated to the individual families. Mental health support was provided to the family members from the Kenyon Mental Health team. Daily briefings were given from the FAC Director on the current status of the operation. Kenyon arranged organised visits to the incident site for the family members.

Kenyon was responsible for the repatriation of all international deceased from the city where the accident took place to their next of kin in their home country. In excess of 8,200 items of Personal Effects (PE) were collected from the victims and the incident site. Kenyon was responsible for site collection, recording, cleaning, inventorying, photographing, cataloging and arranging the return of the items to the next of kin. The process took more than six months.

RESULTS

All 103 deceased were positively identified within one month, providing confirmation to the families of the death of their loved ones.

Over 8,200 items of personnel effects were collected and managed by Kenyon. Kenyon provided support and assistance to over 20 families within the FAC. The Centre remained open for the length of the response operation.

A large number of personal items of the victims located at the site were returned to family members, assisting the families in the grieving process.

The airline responded to the incident in a positive and professional manner providing appropriate support and assistance to the families. The action taken by the airline is in conformance with the recommended guidelines from IATA.

Kenyon provided the airline and the Libyan government with a timely comprehensive disaster victim identification response, which performed a major role in the identification of all 103 victims of the incident and the return of personnel effects.

If you would like to know more about Kenyon Emergency Services, visit kenyoninternational.com or contact kenyon@kenyoninternational.com

