

REUTERS

Libyan refugees in Tunisia celebrate after hearing news that Libyan leader Moammar Gadhafi was killed in Sirte.

month siege of Sirte and made a break for the west.

But they did not get far. France said its aircraft struck military vehicles belonging to Gadhafi forces near Sirte at about 8:30 a.m. local time on Thursday, but said it was unsure whether the strikes had killed Gadhafi.

Some 3 km west of Sirte, 15 pick-up trucks mounted with heavy machine guns lay burnt out, smashed and smouldering next to an electricity sub station some 20 metres from the main road.

Gadhafi himself and a handful of his men escaped death and appeared to have run through a stand of trees towards the main road and hid in the two drainage pipes. But a group of government fighters were on their tail.

"At first we fired at them with anti-aircraft guns, but it was no use," said Salem Bakeer. "Then we

went in on foot. One of Gadhafi's men came out waving his rifle in the air and shouting surrender, but as soon as he saw my face he started shooting at me," he told Reuters.

"Then I think Gadhafi must have told them to stop. My master is here, my master is here," he said, 'Moammar Gadhafi is here and he is wounded,'" said Bakeer.

At the time of capture, Gadhafi was already wounded with gunshots to his leg and to his back, Bakeer said.

Other government fighters who said they took part in Gadhafi's capture, separately confirmed Baker's version of events, though one said the man who ruled Libya for 42 years was shot and wounded at the last minute by one of his own men. "One of Gadhafi's guards shot him in the chest," said Omran Jouma Shawan.

MILITARY

Canada's Libya mission to end soon

MARK DUNN
Senior National Reporter

OTTAWA — Canada's combat commitment in Libya will end within two weeks now that strongman Moammar Gadhafi is dead at the hands of the same people he oppressed, tortured and murdered over four decades.

While Prime Minister Stephen Harper would only say that Canada will speak to its allies to discuss pulling out, sources say the mission will end by early November. The Conservatives with the support of the Liberals voted in Parliament last month to extend the fight. The NDP voted against it.

Harper, meanwhile, called on Libyans "to turn the page on 42

years of vicious oppression and continue their journey toward a better future."

Speaking outside the Commons, Harper praised Canadian Forces personnel for their duty and commended Lt.-Gen. Charles Bouchard for leading the NATO charge to protect civilians from slaughter.

"Gadhafi's days are over. Never again will he be in a position to support terrorism or to turn guns on his own citizens,"

Harper said that "with the shadow of Gadhafi now lifted from their land, it is our hope that the Libyan people will find peace and reconciliation after this dark period in the life of their nation, and we look forward to working with them."

Last week, Foreign Affairs Minister John Baird visited Libya accompanied by representatives of Canadian companies looking to do business.

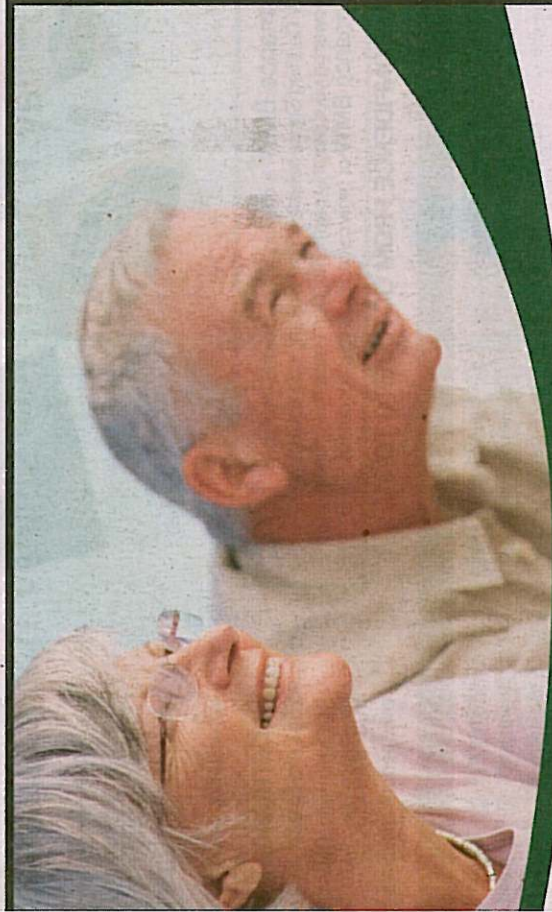
Canada has also committed more than \$10 million in humanitarian aid and \$10 million to help the National Transitional Council find caches of weapons, including tens of thousands of missiles — many of which are missing from stockpiles.

Canada has almost 700 military personnel, fighter jets, a warship, patrol planes and other equipment as part of the United Nations mandate to enforce a no-fly zone and arms embargo. Canada has been in the region since March.

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