

Man loses both legs in accident

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Abu Dhabi: "I longed to hold my children in my arms& it has been so long since I have seen them. But that was not meant to be. Just hours before I was to fly back home I got hit by a speeding car and both my legs had to be amputated. That's fate!" Ahmad Towfiq said, visibly fighting to hold back his tears.

Speaking to *Gulf News*, from his hospital bed at Shaikh Khalifa Medical City, the Indonesian narrated the incident that has changed his life.

"The day before Eid [September 19] I was all set to go home to meet my family - my wife, children and parents. I was hoping to celebrate Eid with them and enjoy a vacation but everything changed in a matter of seconds.

"I was standing in a parking lot, just opposite the building where I stay. I was keeping close to my friends' car. Suddenly a car sped towards me. It hit me, pressing me against my friends' car and then it swerved back into the road and hit the barrier before coming to a halt," Towfiq said.

The 40-year-old is an Adnoc filling station employee who has lived in the UAE for the past 14 years. The crash happened along Al Nasr Street.

According to him, it was an Egyptian man who was behind the wheel.

The biggest struggle for him is not coming to terms with the loss of his legs, he said, but more painful is the need to constantly struggle to keep a happy voice while speaking to his family back home.

"I have to hold on a bit more and cannot tell them now. My baba [father] and mama [mother] will be so worried. This tragedy would devastate them. They would want to come and see me this instant."

He plans to let his family know about the accident only when he is able to see them in person. Towfiq refused his picture to be taken for fear that his family might come to know.

For now, to his wife who was expecting to see him soon, he has given an excuse that his leave application has not been sanctioned.

Gesturing with his arms around his body he said: "I want to hug my young ones. Although I'm in pain, when I speak to each one of them I maintain my calm and put on a smiling face".

He has already undergone two surgeries on his legs and is waiting for a third one in the coming days. "Sometimes there is too much of pain. I try to sleep but I cannot", he said, looking down at his severed legs.