

Car-crash woman regains consciousness

after 27 years in a coma

By Raf Sanchez

AN EMIRATI woman has reportedly regained consciousness after nearly 30 years in a coma.

Munira Abdulla, 60, was injured in a car crash in the UAE in 1991 and spent 27 years in a vegetative state. She re-

turned to consciousness for the first time last June after treatment in Germany, according to *The National* newspaper in Abu Dhabi.

Her son, Omar Webair, said she started to come to after hearing him have an argument with medical staff in her hospital room. "She was making

strange sounds and I kept calling the doctors to examine her," Mr Webair said.

"They said everything was normal. Then, three days later, I woke up to the sound of someone calling my name. It was her. She was calling my name. I was flying with joy. For years I have

dreamt of this moment, and my name was the first word she said."

Ms Abdulla remains in a wheelchair but is able to have basic conversations and can recite Islamic prayers.

"She can tell us where she is feeling pain, and I can have conversations with her if she is interested in the topic," Mr

Webair said. "She sometimes wakes me up to recite prayers. She would give me the topic and once I start with the prayer she continues the lines."

It is extremely rare for victims of head trauma to wake up from long-term comas. Terry Wallis, an American, was involved in a serious car crash

in 1984 when he was just 20. He regained consciousness 19 years later. When he first came to he believed it was still 1984 and did not realise he had spent almost two decades in a coma.

He is still alive but remains severely disabled from the injuries suffered in the accident.