



**United Hatzalah of Israel**

*Highlights of the week in Israel*

2 July 2008

*Dear Friends and Supporters,*

It is with a heavy heart that I share with you information regarding the recent terror attack in Jerusalem.

The numbers as of now, 46 people were evacuated from the scene, 2 of them moderately injured and 2 critical, one who later succumbed to her injuries. 3 were killed on the scene (not including the terrorist).

I just wanted to share with you a first hand account from one of our medics, **Daniel Katzenstein** who was one of the first on the scene. May the people of Israel know no more sorrow.

Sincerely,

**Eli Beer**

Chief coordinator

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## **Terror attack in Jerusalem**

### **Bulldozer rampage on Jaffa street**

I was sitting in my office when a call came through regarding an incident involving a tractor and a bus. I stepped outside of our offices on Jaffa Street I saw a sight of devastation and destruction that I could not comprehend. One vehicle whose engine was crushed not the way you would expect in a “normal” accident. The vehicle closest was on its side with no one inside. The cab was devastated.

People were running up Jaffa street away from the Shuk Machaneh Yehuda with an all too familiar terrified look on their faces. Along with me ran medics from their cars, ambulances, and on foot. Along with us ran soldiers and police with guns drawn and faces resolute.

The chatter of walkie-talkies merged with cries for help. Gunshots rang out but I still had no idea what had caused the mayhem. I came across a crowd of people exiting a bus but the exit looked odd, as I got closer I realized that



they were exiting from the windshield as the bus was resting on its side. Tossed aside like an angry child's toy. Passersby were assisting with an orderly exit. I shouted if there was anyone requiring assistance. Aside from the occasional scratches there was nothing critical at this stage. A lady with a mangled foot got a bandage and I moved on. The driver of the bus was on his back yelling in pain but conscious. I left him in the care of a friend, he needed evacuation, not stage 1 and I did not have an ambulance. I moved on. Numerous injured were strewn about as an increasing amounts of crews began dealing with each one.



It was the lady in the car that got to me. Someone called me over to help her. The car was mangled and in flung up against a barrier. Her fashionable glasses were on her lap as if waiting to be picked up. We tried to extricate her but her foot was caught in the crushed door. A soldier grabbed and pulled and bought us the few centimeters we needed. An ambucycle medic joined me in the wreck and we lifted her out on to a waiting backboard. I can not describe her injuries so as not to pain her family and I do not wish to dwell on the sight. It was an image that years will not erase. More cries for help no time to stop.



The rest turned out to be mostly people suffering from shock. A pregnant lady with back pains. An old lady with her shopping bags fainted at a bus stop.

I returned to my office, put my head down, had a good cry, took a drink, centered myself and got back to work.





**Thank you to all who have given us the opportunity to continue our work. We hope you will continue to support us in the future.**

**United Hatzalah** is the largest emergency rescue volunteer organization in Israel which, working hand in hand with MDA has the endorsement of the leading Rabbis in Israel.

**United Hatzalah** has branches in almost every city in Israel from the Golan Heights in the north to Eilat in the south.