



## United Hatzalah of Israel

### *Highlights of the week in Israel*

3 July 2008

*Dear Friends and Supporters,*

This was a tough week for all of us as we all feel the pain and sorrow of the victims of yesterday's terror attack. I have decided to include a small story about one of the victims in this week's installment. There was also a previously scheduled MCI training event that took place today. The training was challenging and exceedingly realistic. A moving story about one of our volunteers in the Saharah is included as a change of pace and we close with a recap of the month's carnage on the roads.

We wish our US friends a pleasant and safe July 4 weekend  
Have a great week,

Sincerely,

**Eli Beer**

Chief coordinator

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### **A Mother's Heroic Legacy**

02.06.2008

With the final toll of yesterday's terror attack in Jerusalem 4 dead and 44 wounded the living move on in a surreal sense of normalcy. But even for many people their normal life has been interrupted and replaced with something else. While each life touched in this event is unique and special the story of Efrat Unterman is especially poignant. Efrat is only 5 months old and is now orphaned of her mother. When she gets old enough she will be told of the pure love and heroics of her mother, Batsheva.

After a round of errands that included the purchase of a new car seat, a well-visit to the doctor and presumably some routine stops that are part of fabric of everyone's day-to-day lives, Batsheva was driving down Jaffa Street when she spotted the now infamous tractor.

Undoubtedly horrified by what she saw Batsheva rapidly perceived the drivers murderous intent. She also knew what she had to do. Save her baby.





She unbuckled her baby as the roar of the tractor, smell of diesel fuel from the revving engine and the sound of crushing metal began to fill the car.

Her last heroic act was handing little Batsheva to a passerby. United Hatzalah

volunteers assisted in caring for little Efrat continuing in Batsheva's legacy.

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## Mock MCI

03.06.2008

With the sights and sounds of yesterday's terror attack raw in the minds of the United Hatzalah volunteers, today's Mass Casualty Incident (MCI) Training Event took on a new sense of urgency. The differences were that today's casualties got to go home. Today's scars washed off with soap and water. Today's event ended happily. But today's event makes us better trained for tomorrow. May the need not arise.



The MCI training event was coordinated by United Hatzalah's Medical Director Prof. Avi Rivkind as part of his training of Hadassah University Medical Center's medical students where he is the Head of Surgery Department and Trauma Unit. The training required coordination between United Hatzalah volunteers, the medical students, IAF's elite 669 Search and Rescue (SAR) units, ZAKA, the police and fire departments. A follow-up "lessons learned" review was held at Hadassah Medical Center.



## Drama in the Sahara

Most of the time, Rachamim Amos is a tour guide. Sometimes, on extremely short notice, he becomes Rachamim the United Hatzalah Medic. Whenever he leads a tour one of his bags is always his United Hatzalah medic kit bag. Most of the time the kit bag is only opened for sprains, bruises or minor cuts.

This tour started like so many others with loading and unloading buses, kvetching kids and amazing scenery. This time the tour was to Sahara Desert in Morocco. Even the kids were awed by scenery. As the air-conditioned bus wove it's way through the sand-swept windy roads, a turban-wrapped figure emerged from the desert waving his arms frantically. The bus eased to a stop and a blast of hot desert air filled the bus. Rachamim, fluent in Arabic, listened to the man's story.

Given the setting and the story, Rachamim felt that he was being written into a Grade-B film. But something in the man's story rang true. Disregarding the security guard's dire warnings of robbery, terrorism or other nefarious plot, Rachamim followed the man into the desert. Hundreds of meters into the desert, the guard's warnings seemed to ring true. The theoretical concept "swallowed up in the trackless desert" took on a whole new meaning. Heart pounding Rachamim's eyes roved the desert looking for a clue.

Suddenly out of the proverbial wasteland materialized a pair of jeeps, one upright and the second crumpled off the side of a nearly indiscernible path. Huddled in the minimal shade provided by the crumpled jeep was a trio of young children. On of them, a young girl had her leg in an awkward angle and her clothing soaked with blood. Rachamim realized that he was looking at an open fracture at the femur complicated by a rupture of the femoral artery. Out of his United Hatzalah kit bag Rachamim extracted pressure bandages and cravats. Working rapidly Rachamim staunched the bleeding and stabilized the fracture. With the young girl not yet out of danger, Rachamim advised the frantic father how to maintain pressure on the artery and avoid movement on the break for the 4 hour jeep ride to the nearest hospital.

With effusive praise the desert guide walked Rachamim directly back to the bus and disappeared back into the desert. The next day, Rachamim decided to check up on the young girl. He walked into the hospital and was greeted immediately by shouts "Here is the Jewish doctor!!!". The tearful father hugged Rachamim and kissed him on both cheeks. The doctors confirmed that without Rachamim's timely intervention the girl would have certainly died.

Rachamim became something of a legend in the village. He was bestowed with the title which roughly translates as "The Jewish Dr. Angel from Israel" The father invited Rachamim to a celebratory goat feast in his honor. Rachamim tried to explain that he wasn't really a doctor and that he really can't eat goat slaughtered that way. Despite it all, the legend remains, a good medic from Israel whose name actually translates as "Mercy" saved a girls life and leaves behind an incredible fount of goodwill.



### 3 AM - Minibus in Flames

It was 3 in the morning when a call came through that a minibus had flipped over and burst into flames. Cries for help were reported from the scene. Without regard for their own comfort and sleep over a dozen United Hatzalah from nearby Elad volunteers raced into the night to reach the scene.

The fire was intense and the horror of what would await the volunteers when the flames would be extinguished was almost too much to bear. When they were finally able to approach the vehicle, it was painfully obvious that there was nothing to do but count the fatalities.

Thankfully the minibus was not carrying passengers. The driver, however, was unfortunately killed in the incident.



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**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.