

Israeli Hospitals Hit by Missiles

The Israeli Medical Association reports that Nahariya Hospital was directly hit by Hezbollah missiles on Friday 28th July. Although the attack totally demolished the Ophthalmology Department, the patients had previously been moved to underground departments and were therefore uninjured.

A team of British reporters from the ITN network also experienced a narrow escape on their lives, having toured the empty ward just ten minutes before the attack.

This assault was followed by another barrage of missiles on Saturday, on the Mizra Mental Health Institution. Accordingly, the Minister for Health, Yaacov Ben-Izri, has had all 250 patients and 100 staff from this medical facility transferred to hospitals in central Israel.

These attacks come just one week after missiles hit Ziv Hospital in Tsfat, causing damage to a quarter of the premises and injuring eight people, including a pediatrician. The hospital has since moved the patients to alternative, relatively safer, wings.

In a statement on the current turn of events Dr. Yoram Blachar, President of the IMA, said: "An attack on medical institutions is a serious breach of the Geneva Convention and of elementary ethical rules of war. We strongly protest against these violations and hope that there will be no further attacks of this sort."

Meanwhile, Lebanese children and adults wounded in the Hezbollah-Israeli crossfire in Lebanon have been invited to receive

free treatment at Sheba Medical Center at Tel Hashomer. The cost, including housing and food for their families, will be paid by Jewish and non-Jewish donors in Israel and abroad, said hospital director-general Prof. Zev Rothstein.

Sheba has promoted the offer on Arabic-language radio broadcasts and by a Sheba representative stationed in Cyprus, where many refugees have gone.

Asked what the hospital would do if the relative of a Hezbollah fighter asked for care at Sheba, Rothstein stated, "If a child were brought here, we would not ask whether his father is a terrorist."

Ziv Hospital in Safed is currently treating a 47-year-old Lebanese woman brought by her son with bullet wounds in her back to the border. She is in serious condition, attached to a respirator and under anesthesia.

The Health Ministry reported Sunday that since the start of the fighting twenty days ago, its hospitals have received 1,292 Israelis wounded from missile attacks. Of those, 19 are in serious condition, 37 in moderate condition and 325 suffered light physical injuries. A total of 875 came in seeking help for anxiety attacks.

The Foreign Ministry informed the IMA that during the past 19 days 1,882 missiles have been fired by the Hezbollah, resulting in the deaths of 52 people and 1,636 injuries. ■