

Hospitals Still Haven Of Hope, Caring For Ailing Arab And Israeli Infants Of Strife-Torn Gaza And West Bank

JERUSALEM - Despite tensions between Arabs and Israelis that have erupted in violence in Gaza and the West Bank, Arab physicians in the territories are continuing to refer infant patients to the Hadassah hospitals here.

In recent weeks, cases referred to the Hadassah-University Hospital and the Hadassah-Hebrew University Medical Center have included a newly-born baby with a malformed esophagus and a 10-month-old infant with a severe disorder of the large bowel, both from Gaza.

Doctors at the Medical Center at Ein Karem also treated and released the youngest reported Israeli victim of the disturbances on the West Bank, a 15-month-old boy who was struck on the head with a rock hurled by rioting Arabs. And a surgeon at the Hadassah Hospital on Mount Scopus performed a rare operation on a five-year-old Arab boy to correct a birth defect which rendered his right arm useless. Both children live in the West Bank.

The Israeli child was identified as Michael Ben-Hur of Ma'aleh Adumim, a Jewish settlement, who was hit in the head by a fist-size stone thrown at his parents' car as they passed through the Arab village of Eizariya shortly before Shabbat.

The infant, bleeding and unconscious, was taken first to Hadassah's Mount Scopus hospital, then transferred to the Pediatric Surgery Department in the Medical Center at Ein Karem. Doctors said Michael was "incredibly lucky" not to have suffered a skull fracture or serious brain damage.

Physicians at the Children's Hospital in Gaza turned to specialists at the Hadassah Medical Center to treat a baby just hours old who was born without an opening to his esophagus. The

infant was rushed by ambulance to Ein Karem, where Dr. Shmuel Katz, the senior pediatric surgeon, performed the life-saving operation.

Dr. Katz also performed surgery on the 10-month-old infant from Gaza who suffered from Hirschsprung's Disease, which causes a constriction of the rectum and resulting dilation of the large bowel. The child, identified only as Mustafa, was first treated at the Hadassah Medical Center at the age of two weeks when Dr. Katz performed a colostomy to create an opening for the infant's bowel through his abdominal wall.

The most recent procedure will close the colostomy and completely correct the Arab child's condition. In keeping with Hadassah policy, Mustafa's mother has remained at his bedside throughout his treatment at the Medical Center.

Five-year-old Barakat Alkadi of Hebron, one of the centers of unrest on the West Bank, underwent a highly unusual operation to correct a birth defect which resulted in crippling damage to his right forearm and elbow.

Dr. Maurice Rouso, an internationally recognized expert in hand and arm surgery at the Hadassah-University Hospital, said that the youngster's inner forearm bone stopped growing about a year ago. The outer bone has continue to grow, but was not attached to the child's elbow. As a result, the long outer bone jutted out at the elbow joint, causing paralysis of the boy's right hand.

Dr. Rouso said that this rare condition usually is not treated until a patient is well into adolescence. But in Barakat's case, the decade-long wait would have resulted in his arm muscle withering, with almost no hope of even limited function being restored.

The surgeon cut the shorter bone and attached both segments to the bone growing normally. A special screw permits the abnormal bone to "grow" along with the healthy one, which was attached in the proper position to the child's elbow. With time and physical therapy, Dr.

Evidence Against A Mass Murderer



An official of the Simon Wiesenthal Center met at the Ministry of Justice and Education in Buenos Aires with Argentine government officials to present evidence in the case of Nazi war criminal Josef Schwammberger. The Wiesenthal Center's legal counsel, Martin Mendelsohn (pictured at right) handed to (left to right) Jorge Sabato, Minister of Education and Justice and Cesar Matas, Head of the North American Ministry of Foreign Affairs, affidavits from eyewitnesses to Schwammberger's crimes, and other documentary evidence gathered by the Wiesenthal Center's research staff in the U.S., Canada and Israel. The 75-year-old Schwammberger, who was among the top five on the Wiesenthal Center's list of "most wanted" Nazi war criminals, is currently being held in Buenos Aires pending extradition for trial to West Germany. He is wanted for crimes against humanity committed at the Rozwadeva Ghetto and the Przemysl work camp in Poland.

Rouso said, Barakat will regain full use of his right hand.

The cost of the complex operation was paid by the Civil Administration of Judaea and Samaria.



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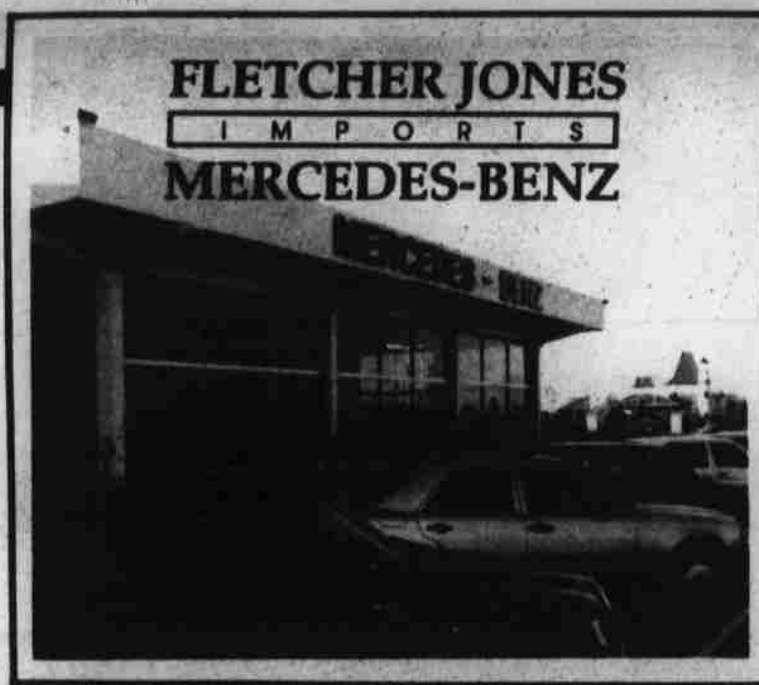
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