

The Light at the End of the War
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Translated by Yehudit Tayar



Yehudit Tayar was born in Chicago Illinois and served as a councilor in Bnei Akiva Youth Organization. She has lived with her family in Bet Horon in the Benjamin Region for over 30 years, serves as an emergency first response medic, on the Board of Directors of Hatzalah Yehudah and Shomron, and is a spokesperson for the Jewish pioneers in Yesha. Married to Ami, mother of four children, and grandmother.

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It appears that the most sane place in the Middle East is located it seems at the border of Israel-Syria next to the IDF outpost Tel Saki, a very well-known landmark in Ramat HaGolan (the Golan Heights) and in the historical battles of the State of Israel. In this position there is an emergency clinic inside of which daily impossible situations occur- with the responsibility of Israel an American organization gives medical care to the Syrians who come there.

Even the most cynical would find it almost impossible to remain apathetic. The flow of the poverty and horrific situation of those coming to be treated from Syria, most of them children, is heartbreaking. They are black – filthy from dirt and neglect, ripped clothing, some of them have not eaten a normal meal for months. Some of them come in alone, because their entire families were killed in the civil war in Syria. Others come with their mothers, who are trying to take care of them, and who are so worried about what will happen when they return to Syria. At home the war awaits them and whoever is helped by Israel is considered a traitor. The war is the reason for the establishment of this clinic. It is a part of the project "good neighbors" of the Northern Front of the IDF (Israeli Defense Forces). In the beginning of the establishment of the clinic in 2013, there were few who came into Israel and all of this was done with complete secrecy, and it was then that Israel first brought in Syrians who had been injured in the war. Today the number of the injured who come from Syria is in the thousands and Israel is very proud of this and no longer keeps it a secret.

There is an enormous need for humanitarian aid in Syria, more than 600 thousand people have been killed in this war, millions injured and thousands left homeless. Almost no infrastructure is left there- no electricity very few places with running water. The hospitals were bombed – all of them by the Assad regime as planned. Whatever was left was ransacked and destroyed. The injured are evacuated to three places, Damascus, Jordan or Israel. They fear going to Damascus. The hospitals there are less competent, and there have been instances that youth who were treated there were then mobilized by force to the army. Also, there is not any great desire to go to Jordan. It is not safe there. Whoever can go to Israel, and not only because of the high level of medical care. "You are a normal country" says Alia, mother of 12-year old Nassar. "It is safe and pleasant here with you. You even make sure that I have cigarettes."

Nassar was playing with some friends in Syrai when he was injured by a land mine. His leg was amputated. His mother brought him into Israel. For 70 days the boy was hospitalized in Nahariya Hospital. Next month they will come to Israel and Nassar will receive a prosthesis leg.

In 2016 the project "Good Neighbors" was made official. The head of the project lieutenant colonel "A" says, "there is a lack of so much and we were not able to satisfy all of the needs- lack of all from clothes, daily needs and more."

There are three parts of this project: caring for injured and it must be clarified that every Syrian who is hospitalized takes a bed from an Israeli who needs it. The entire cost for the medical care for the Syrians comes from the Israeli government. Also, tons of clothes for the winter were transferred to Syria – coats, sweaters, warm hats.

Also, across the border in Syria there was a maternity hospital with no equipment- so life- saving equipment was sent over to the hospital.

Because of the thousands who needed emergency medical assistance the clinic was established following the request of an American organization "Friendship Unlimited, an expert in handling medical emergencies all over the world. Most of the volunteers were Christians who love Israel and were happy for the chance to come to Israel.