



MDA TAKES TO THE SEAS TO HELP REFUGEE CRISIS

Israel 'Izzy' Papa has recently completed five weeks on a Magen David Adom shift he will never forget.

The 23 year-old from Ramat Gan was the first Israeli to join the Migrant Offshore Aid Station (MOAS) delegation in the Mediterranean Sea. MOAS usually includes a doctor and a nurse, but on this occasion the International Red Cross turned to MDA to supply a paramedic.

Papa joined at a particularly tense time for the mission. 240 people, including six children, had just drowned, after two dinghies capsized. Over the past two years approximately 10,000 refugees have died in the Mediterranean Sea after being

crammed inside rubber dinghies and suffering from dehydration and starvation before reaching their destination.

"It's inconceivable. 150 on a small rubber dingy" said Papa. "They come aboard soaked, some of them still with fresh wounds from being shot at in Libya. It's a life that I wouldn't have imagined could exist in the world until I got here."

Papa helped to save and treat thousands of people fleeing from war and poverty. "You know about civil wars in Syria and Africa. But when you actually hear their stories from the people who have experienced them, you get shocked" he said. Indeed, it was the reaction from one man fleeing war-torn Syria that brought the young Israeli to tears. "When I told him I was from Israel, he paused for a few minutes and then he said, 'I love you. You're

my brother.'" Papa recalled. "We are all one heart. A person is a person. Whether they're white, black, Muslim, Christian or Jewish, it doesn't matter."

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GLOBAL SUPPORT FOR GLOBAL LIFESAVERS



The pictures and stories that continue to come out of Syria are both tragic and heart-breaking. Yet we can take great pride in the fact that Magen David Adom, as part

of its role on the International Red Cross, is helping refugees in these desperate times. Our lead article, the moving story about the work Israel Papa did in the Mediterranean, is another example of how MDA's work is much more than just ambulances on the streets of Israel.

It might sound incredible but MDA in Israel would not be able to undertake its lifesaving work were it not for the endless and phenomenal support it receives from friends organisations around the world. In particular the UK community, from North to South and pretty much everywhere in between, is directly responsible for funding a range of services and equipment that directly save lives. An example of this is our capital campaign, the National Blood & Logistics Centre in Ramla. We have, this month, hit the £2m mark. An incredible achievement - thank you!

Have a great summer.

Daniel Burger
Chief Executive

MDA AWARDED HONORARY DOCTORATE

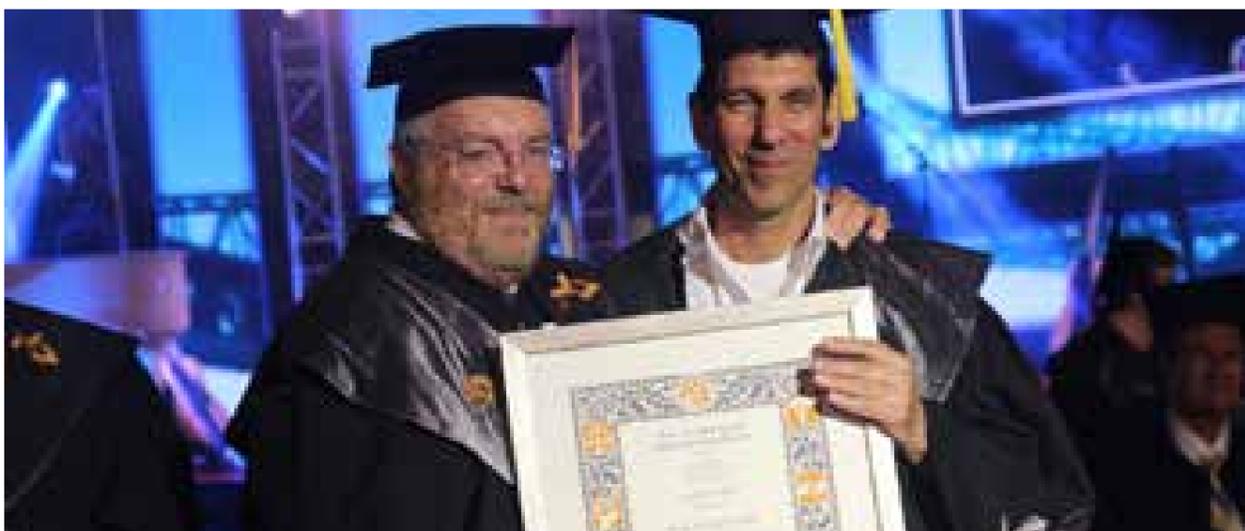
In May of this year, Magen David Adom was given the extraordinary award of an Honorary Doctorate by Bar Ilan University; the highest decoration offered by academic institutions.

The award was made to Director General, Eli Bin, at a ceremony on the Bar-Ilan campus as part of the University's Board of Trustees Conference. The MDA team received the doctorate alongside other prestigious names including Rabbi Shlomo Amar, Dr. David Dangoor and Bernard-Henri Levy.

Bar-Ilan University President, Professor Daniel Hershkowitz said, "the award is provided to Magen David Adom in Israel, the largest rescue organisation in Israel, as a token of appreciation for many years of lifesaving activities. Guided by the values of the preservation of life, MDA motivates its thousands of volunteers and employees to participate in active social

involvement and to provide aid to every person in need wherever he may be. The multiple community projects initiated by the organisation promote awareness of civic responsibility and encourage the volunteering values."

Eli Bin expressed his appreciation on behalf of MDA. "I wish to express my gratitude to the Bar Ilan University leadership for choosing MDA and for the esteemed honour you are providing to the Magen David Adom family. The Honorary Doctorate is an expression of trust and respect to the organisation that provides Emergency Medical Services to all the residents of the State of Israel. MDA is made up of many people who come together and create the heart and soul of the organisation. 15,000 employees and volunteers of all genders, ethnicities, social backgrounds and communities are deserving of this honour we are receiving tonight. Because of their devotion, every Israeli, wherever they may be, knows that in time of need there is someone they can count on for help."



UPDATE



Just one year in to MDA UK's fundraising campaign for a new National Blood & Logistics Centre in Israel, we have hit the £2m mark. There are still plenty of naming and donation opportunities available. Please contact Daniel Burger for more information.

SAVE MORE LIVES IN ISRAEL TODAY CALL 020 8201 5900

ON TOUR WITH NOAM GERSHONY

Magen David Adom UK was joined by Paralympic Gold Medalist, Noam Gershony for a nationwide tour. We visited and addressed communities across the UK, including Leeds, Manchester and Liverpool, as well as in Jersey.

The tour raised over £25,000 for MDA UK. Thanks to our incredible supporters across the country, we have now completed the funding for two new medicycles, one each from the Jersey and Leeds communities.

Noam Gershony served in the Israeli Defence Force as a pilot. During the 2006 Lebanon War, his Apache helicopter collided with another helicopter, an event which killed his co-pilot and left Gershony severely injured after hurtling 6,000 feet to the ground. No-one thought that the then 23-year-old would survive. Incredibly, Noam rehabilitated and went on to win Israel's first gold medal in the men's singles quad tennis tournament at the 2012 London Paralympics.

Looking back on the tour, MDA UK Chief Executive Daniel Burger said: "I'm delighted to see such strong support across the country and it's been a privilege spending time with the communities, working tirelessly to support Magen David Adom."



STRAIGHT ON SHIFT

Magen David Adom UK donor Jonathan Straight sampled an ambulance shift in Tel Aviv. Here is a first-hand account of his experience.

“When it was suggested I do a shift with an Israeli ambulance I was very excited. Having supported MDA over the years, I never expected to see its work first hand.

I met paramedic Aryeh and ambulance driver Dudi at the MDA depot in Lod. Unlike the UK, the

MDA depot has two types of ambulance. The white ambulances are more basic and have less equipment on board. The yellow ambulances, as ours - number 214 - is an intensive care unit on wheels. The split allows resources to be better deployed.

I was given a quick look around the ICU ambulance I was to be based in for my shift. There was a monitor to track the patient's pulse, blood pressure, ECG and so on. This communicated data to a smart phone and so could rapidly be shared with others. Next was a supply of oxygen. Then the Ambubag which included equipment for

resuscitation and testing and finally a tool box filled with drugs. When the first call came through we all leapt into action and were off, sirens blaring.

In the six hours I spent with this crew, fortunately we did not have to attend to anyone who was seriously ill or badly hurt. However, I got a great look at the amazing work MDA do, day in and day out and it was fascinating to be so close to what was happening, and to have unfettered access to everywhere the ambulance crew were going.”

If you would like to experience a shift with MDA in Israel, please call or email the office and we will arrange it for you.



Photos by Jonathan Straight

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DEDICATED DONORS MAKE A LIFESAVING DIFFERENCE

The first half of 2017 has seen our donors dedicate a 'fleet' of new vehicles.



Carter family



Baron Cohen & Weiser families



Southend & Westcliff Community



Rosemary & Harry Klahr and family



Cohen & Rubin families



Berkley family



Brecher family



Charlotte Ashton & Alex Baroukh



Myrna & Isaac Kaye



Verbov family

ROTHSCHILD HOSTS INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

Pre IMDAC (International Magen David Adom Conference) 2017 took place in May at Waddesdon Manor.

MDA representatives travelled from near and far to attend the conference, including those from the UK, USA, France, Holland, Belgium, Italy and Israel.

Eli Bin provided an overview of MDA's worldwide activities since the beginning of the year. In his address key issues affecting the diaspora were discussed as well as fundraising within Israel.

Later, Israel's new Deputy Ambassador to the UK, Sharon Ba-Li, spoke about the important relationship

between communities around the world and MDA in Israel, expressing her hope that fundraising efforts will continue.

As part of the conference, attendees visited the Balfour declaration exhibition inside the incredible stately home.



UPCOMING EVENTS

12th July
Macabbiah Reception

31st July
Hartsbourne Ladies Charity Golf Day

25th September
London Annual Dinner

18th October
Manchester Fashion Show

5th - 9th November
Trek 60km across Israel

10th December
Hendon Annual Dinner

For more information please contact the office
info@mdauk.org / 020 8201 5900



Lord Finkelstein in conversation with Brenda Elton at Impromptu Committee's 'Face to Face' reception, which raised £8,500 towards a medicycle.

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