



# Holy Family Hospital



An Institution of the Order of Malta

*"Where there is always a place in the inn for all"*

By Dr. Robert Tabash  
Director of Administration

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## Outstanding Visit to HFH

Friday 19<sup>th</sup> September 2008, the hospital welcomed Mr. Walid Maalouf the Director of Public Diplomacy for Middle Eastern & the Middle East Partnership Initiative (MEPI) Affairs at the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) and who is also a Knight of the Sovereign Military Order of Malta. Mr. Maalouf toured the hospital accompanied by Dr. Tabash and Sr. Simone Abi Dib.

## Welcome Back !

Dr. Saba Abu Farha re-joined the medical team of the hospital after 3 years of absence when he left in October 2005 to specialize in gynecology in the University of Liege, Belgium. He had intensive training in Laparoscopic surgery. Starting from this month, Dr. Saba will hold a daily private afternoon clinic in the hospital's outpatient clinics.



## Mdwifery and Neonatology Program at Bethlehem University

This month, the hospital is proud to announce the successful graduation from Bethlehem university of six nurses who obtained a two years post-graduate diploma in midwifery and neonatal nursing: Rasha Musleh, Jihad Kheir, Dawlat Abu Mahamed and Dalal Zawahreh graduated successfully from the neonatology program, whereas Intisar Bannoura and Iman Dar'awi graduated successfully from the midwifery program.

**CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL!**

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## ILYN visits Holy Family Hospital

Organized by the International Young Leaders Network, eighteen young Catholic Leaders some who are active in the Order of Malta Volunteers, from the UK, Europe, America, and Australia, took part in a visit to the hospital .

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*"Let us always seek the ways which lead to peace and the ways in which we can support one another"*

*(St. Paul to the Romans)*

## EDITORIAL

I am afraid that since a few months we have unfortunately been witness to a deterioration of the situation in this country.

On one hand, these last months several tragic events have brought a note of bloodshed to the Holy City of Jerusalem and on the other hand several articles published on internet or in the newspapers have made mention that all signs show that a bloody Hamas-Fatah confrontation will occur.

In the next weeks, and more than ever, we will pass through a period of turbulence with the elections in the States and perhaps in Israel and the renewal of the mandate of the President of the Palestinian Authority. The expectations of people in the Holy Land are enormous as far as their hope for a negotiated solution to their vital problems.

What can we do, except call the attention of the political local and international personalities to this problem and to pray for peace. Could God move away this most probably murderous confrontation which will lead Palestinians to civil war.

My stay in the Gaza Strip last month within the framework of an official mission of the Belgian Technical Cooperation showed to me the daily harsh realities of life in Gaza especially concerning liberty, food and health problems. I was commissioned to assess the quality of maternity and newborn care at Al Shifaa

hospital (more than 14.500 deliveries/year), as a step in developing interventions to improve childbirth care.

Understaffing of qualified nurses and doctors, impossibility to leave Gaza for training, lack of hygiene and equipment and regularly power cuts are the most important reasons for a very high mortality rate in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit. Helping in promote continuous medical education and staff upgrading by sending candidates outside of Gaza to Bethlehem University and to Holy Family Hospital will be our priority and contribution for the next years.

The lack of a purification station for waste water of a population of 1.8 million inhabitants turn the seaside into an open cesspool, where it is almost impossible to breathe. "It's true that it is difficult to imagine that anyone who is under siege, bombed, walled up in Palestine could appreciate the magnificence of the Song of Songs" (by the late Mahmud Darwish).

Unprejudiced, we are ready to bring our little contribution to the peace process in encouraging each initiative to bring people closer.

# ACTIVITY REPORT

## Monthly Deliveries

The number of monthly deliveries since 1990 is as follows:

	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
JAN	0	93	128	143	146	148	181	205	217	162	250	158	180	159	238	224	240	230	248
FEB	4	69	97	150	157	130	183	180	192	165	239	155	152	165	220	221	218	228	217
MAR	46	93	133	184	149	168	164	220	194	217	231	160	142	179	224	231	217	313	259
APR	68	87	116	181	135	180	180	207	185	213	274	146	82	195	222	240	216	322	270
MAY	85	92	124	170	153	188	224	233	221	246	288	195	129	214	196	238	237	366	340
JUN	85	106	145	177	145	202	212	222	227	276	294	156	132	239	252	258	219	277	291
JUL	84	101	151	165	172	188	209	261	234	302	329	148	136	249	232	235	243	276	294
AUG	71	90	151	173	163	199	226	219	244	299	309	161	122	227	246	235	256	264	279
SEP	109	103	154	171	172	167	192	241	199	276	275	146	143	220	224	234	280	233	260
OCT	116	109	154	166	172	193	198	255	211	273	223	134	138	240	243	257	295	255	
NOV	97	87	150	146	149	203	196	205	161	282	165	145	121	191	221	213	257	224	
DEC	104	105	153	127	163	198	194	240	180	266	175	135	140	203	227	207	268	238	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>869</b>	<b>1135</b>	<b>1656</b>	<b>1953</b>	<b>1876</b>	<b>2164</b>	<b>2359</b>	<b>2688</b>	<b>2465</b>	<b>2977</b>	<b>3052</b>	<b>1839</b>	<b>1617</b>	<b>2481</b>	<b>2745</b>	<b>2793</b>	<b>2946</b>	<b>3226</b>	<b>2458</b>

TOTAL DELIVEREIS SINCE 1990 43 299

### HFH Origin of Patients in 2008

Very rapidly, the hospital has developed into the primary maternity referral center for the Bethlehem District. With a growing reputation for high quality care, more and more mothers are coming long distances mainly from the Hebron area South of Bethlehem and more recently from villages East of Jerusalem.

