



Date: 28.7.2006

Yair Emanuel

Our man in Maalot

Yair visits all the shelters daily –especially near the buildings that have been hit. Everyone knows him & are pleased to see him with his compassionate & supportive presence – seeing that someone from the authorities listens to them & cares– He creatively intervenes as is needed.

Yair prefers to be active out in the field one of the few wondering the streets –& has a way of finding also the forgotten souls who have fallen through the authority's nets–providing & trying to mobilize assistance for them.

The rest of the time he is embedded with the triya's moked –now all working from the social services ground & basement floors– available to all the staff who are keeping the town functioning in this emergency situation –up to & including the Mayor– trying to respond to the many calls from citizens in need. The atmosphere while I was there was relatively calm, there weren't any missile falls close by in the town, but the ongoing thuds in the distance of our artillery fire with occasional slightly different closer thuds seem to be almost ignored but then the comments "did you hear that one was a missile" reveals that there is still a constant vigilance.

The social workers are very busy, functioning but tired. The ways I could see to help here are essentially supportive & relief.

Some feel guilty taking off time to work on themselves– but this can be the first issue to help them with – which was appreciated.

"Save one soul & you save the entire world"? – Yair has saved quite a few worlds in Maalot. Well done. Elan

