



Canadian Hemophilia Society
Help Stop the Bleeding
Société canadienne de l'hémophilie
Arrêtons l'hémorragie

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THE CANADIAN HEMOPHILIA SOCIETY RELIEVED TO LEARN OF THE REPATRIATION OF 2-YEAR-OLD CANADIAN WITH A SEVERE BLEEDING DISORDER WHO WAS CAUGHT IN LEBANON

MONTREAL – July 27, 2006. Following long anxious days, a family from Hamilton, Ontario, arrived safely home last Sunday (July 23) from Lebanon. Caught in southern Lebanon since the onset of hostilities, they faced not only the terror of bombings, but also fears for the survival of 2-year-old son Kareem. Kareem has Type 3 Von Willebrand Disease. This hereditary bleeding disorder is not only very rare, but the most severe form of Von Willebrand Disease. To treat his disorder, young Kareem must receive an intravenous infusion of medication (concentrated factor VIII and Von Willebrand factor) three times a week. What's more, his condition is aggravated by the presence of an inhibitor to factor VIII, making him vulnerable to spontaneous cerebral hemorrhages that could be fatal.

The doctor treating Kareem, Dr. Mohan K.R. Pai from McMaster University in Hamilton, confirms that the Khalife family was well prepared for their trip to Lebanon: "Kareem left for Lebanon with his parents, his brother and his sister for a short three-week stay with a sufficient quantity of factor concentrate for the duration of the trip. The family was caught in a small town in southern Lebanon, Ghazzieh. Consequently, the supply of his medication became critical and would only last for a few more days."

Once they were made aware of the desperate situation of the Khalife family by his physician on July 18, the Canadian Hemophilia Society (CHS) and the World Federation of Hemophilia (WFH) immediately began contacting representatives from the Canadian Department of External Affairs and Health Canada in order to come to the aid of the family in distress. An emergency supply of medication was rushed to Trenton airbase on July 20 and flown to Cyprus, and arrangements were put in place to expedite the family's evacuation.

On July 21, the family made its way overland from Ghazzieh to Beirut before being taken in hand by officials from the Canadian Embassy. It was with great relief that the Canadian Hemophilia

Society learned of the successful evacuation of Kareem and his family to Cyprus later that day and eventually to Canada on Sunday.

The Canadian Hemophilia Society wishes to thank the officials from the Department of External Affairs in Canada, Beirut and Cyprus, and the medical teams from the Hamilton and Kingston Hemophilia Treatment Centres who worked diligently to achieve this happy outcome in extremely difficult conditions.

Profile of the CHS

The Canadian Hemophilia Society is a non-profit organisation that has been working since 1953 to improve the health and quality of life for all people with inherited bleeding disorders and to find a cure. To learn more about bleeding disorders, consult the CHS website at www.hemophilia.ca, or call toll-free at 1-800-668-2686.

Profile of the WFH

The World Federation of Hemophilia, headquartered in Montréal, is a non-profit organisation working in partnership with health professionals, people with hemophilia, governments, industry and foundations in order to improve care around the world. To learn more about the WFH, visit their website at www.wfh.org.

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