

## **Report of Humanitarian Donation by Rhein Nile Rotary Club For Treatment of Injured patients During January Revolution**

The peaceful revolution done by the Egyptian people on January 25<sup>th</sup> has changed the face of Egypt and the region and resulted in dramatic changes in the Egyptian Society many of these are still unfolding . Despite the fact that the demonstrators in Tahrir square were unarmed, the demonstrations were confronted from the Police forces with aggression and violence. Bullets were used to confront these demonstrations resulting in severe eye injuries as a result of the pellets penetrating the eyes. The confrontations resulted in a huge number of eye injuries estimated totally to be in the range of 2500 injuries during the entire revolution everywhere in Egypt. The maximum number of injuries occurred on the evening of the 28<sup>th</sup> of January . On this day we received at Cairo University Hospital emergency department 185 patients with serious eye injuries , what is called medically “ rupture globe with presence of intraocular foreign bodies. Of course to deal with such a huge number of injuries at once is beyond all capabilities of any hospital. Surgeons were recruited from the ophthalmic department to make the initial repair and surgeries for these patients continued for a whole 8 days. The initial repair usually comprises only closure of the entry wound site in the eye and the eye is later assessed by ultrasonography and CT scan and other tests to evaluate the extent of damage caused by the pellet, the location and number of pellets inside the eye or if they have even traversed the eye with an exit wound , the condition of the retina and the presence of cataract which is usually the case in most of the cases. This information will help to plan the second procedure to save vision in the eye . This second procedure in most of the cases will be in the form of vitrectomy and removal of the cataract and implantation of an intraocular lens.

Since its foundation 150 years ago Cairo University Hospital ( also known by Egyptians as Kasr Al Aini Hospital ) is offering medical care to all patients free of charge and the surgeons are doing surgeries there as part of their duties without special surgical fees. The problem at Cairo University Hospital was that we did

not have enough surgical supplies to cover this unusual amount of injured patients . I was very happy then to receive a phone call from Mr. Hans Dilthey , the president of the Rhein Nile Rotary Club in 2010 -2011 expressing his interest and the interest of other partners and colleagues to buy the requested surgical supplies and offering them as a humanitarian donation to help the injured patients. I contacted the Company Alcon who sells the surgical supplies for the vitrectomy machines we have at Cairo University Hospital and who is also the no 1 manufacturer of intraocular lenses in the world. I discussed with them the offer from Rhein Nile Rotary and they responded in a very favorable manner. After contacting their Headquarters in Switzerland, they agreed to the following: Whatever the donation of Rhein Nile rotary is they will offer a similar amount of money from their side as surgical supplies free of charge. In other words whatever the total value of money offered by Rhein Nile Rotary this amount will be doubled. I informed Mr. Dilthey about the offer and he was very pleased. The total value of donations offered by Rhein Nile Rotary was 80 000 LE. For this amount of money Cairo University hospital received surgical supplies and intraocular lenses for a value of 160 000 LE. The donations was delivered in the form of these surgical consumables to Cairo University Hospital , by Mr Dilthey in presence of the Chairman of the Ophtalmology department , Professor Dr Amr Salaheldin, Engineer Mohamad Nasr as a representative from Alcon , and myself Professor Dr Hany Hamza. All of these supplies were used subsequently to operate on the injured patients to help restore their sight.

This project is a very good example of how collaboration between rotary clubs, companies and government institutions can give a really good service to patients and citizens. I recommend this model to be repeated not only in emergency and exceptional situations but also on a regular basis to help many institutions, which are really nonprofit Health care providers as Cairo University Hospital

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