

Critically wounded fight for life on day after street clashes

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BEIRUT: Hospitals were still attending to critically wounded patients a day after Thursday's violent clashes between opposition and government supporters at the Beirut Arab University (BAU) left four people dead and over 150 wounded. The four dead were identified Friday as opposition supporters Hassan Murtada, Khalil Shuman and Adnan Shamas, and Future Movement supporter Mohammad Ghazi.

Al-Makassad Hospital in Tariq Jdideh received 118 wounded on Thursday, two of which died during surgery due to severe cardiac trauma. Approximately 50 wounded were still in the hospital Friday, most of whom had suffered gunshot wounds or were in critical condition from other wounds.

Dr. Ghassan Naja, a cardiologist at Makassad Hospital, told The Daily Star that he performed surgery Thursday on four rioters who had suffered severe traumas during the clash.

"Two unfortunately did not make it because they suffered heavy trauma, and the other two are in critical condition but made it through surgery," he said Friday. "The hospital was completely full with emergency patients, but we managed to attend to all of them."

Mohammad Timseh, 24, was one of the wounded still at the hospital Friday. He was shot in the chest mere inches above his heart during the clashes. Timseh's doctor said the bullet was lodged in muscle tissue and could be removed.

"I live in Tariq Jdeideh, and when I heard there was shooting at the university I immediately went to see if my family were OK," Timseh told The Daily Star from his hospital bed. "When I got to Cola the roads were all blocked by the army, with the opposition standing on the other side. I turned my scooter around and tried to get across through other streets. That was when I was shot."

Timseh was unequivocal in his support for the Future Movement. "I want Hizbullah to know that Tariq Jdideh is [MP Saad] Hariri's area and it will never go to them," he said. "Beirut is ours and we will die before letting Hizbullah take over. If anyone from the opposition tries to come back to Tariq Jdideh, problems will start again."
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