

ICU's respiratory team. "The next 24 to 48 hours are critical." Weiss thought it doubtful that the cop would make it.

The long-term care and rehabilitative wards at Hadassah are a grim showcase of notorious past attacks. One 3-year-old girl has been in a coma since surviving a suicide-bomb blast at the Sbarro's pizza restaurant in Jerusalem last August. Other long-term patients include a 20-year-old victim of the March 2002 bombing of the trendy Moment Café, in which 13 young people died, and a female Holocaust survivor who was injured in the Passover massacre

and remains in Hadassah's psychiatric ward. There have been Palestinian victims as well, including a 9-year-old boy who suffered third-degree burns over 85 percent of his body when an Israeli helicopter bombed the car he was playing in last April in the city of Hebron, and a Palestin-

ian militant hit by sniper fire inside the Church of the Nativity.

Working intensively for two years with victims of suicide bombs has not altered either Ben-Yaacov's or Rivkind's political views. Ben-Yaacov, who held workshops

The bus driver himself appeared to be unscathed, though his lungs, Dr. Rivkind later found, had been torn apart

in trauma care for Palestinians before the intifada broke out, calls herself a moderate and believes that Sharon's military incursions have led nowhere. "We have to try a new approach," she says. Rivkind describes himself as right-wing but says he avoids debating politics with his head

nurse. "I am not going to fight a war I can not win," he says, relaxing over a sal plate in the hospital cafeteria. And with the endless stream of victims usually prevents forming emotional connections sometimes there are exceptions. Ben-Yaacov fights back tears when she thinks about 22-year-old Shiri Nigari, whom she briefly comforted before the Gillo bomb victim was whisked to the operating room. "Her sister came the next day. 'Please tell me, did you hold her hand?' she asked me. I had to be honest. 'No,' I said. She said, 'Never mind. I just wanted to know.' Then her father came to pick up her things—her clothes, tennis shoes, a bottle of mineral water. He said he wanted to thank me. And all I could think was, 'I don't know what I did. She died.'"

With JOANNA CHEN in Jerusalem



ADEL HANA-AP