



Source: Hendon & Finchley Press  
 Edition:  
 Country: UK  
 Date: Thursday 15, February 2007  
 Page: 18  
 Area: 335 sq. cm  
 Circulation: VFD 29042 Weekly  
 BRAD info: page rate £3,073.60, scc rate £11.30  
 Phone: 020 8203 5100  
 Keyword: National Blood Service

# Muslim community urged to give blood during holy month

JAN LETOCHA

By Lee Husson

MUSLIMS flocked to a blood donor session last Thursday.

The Islamic Unity Society issued a rallying call last week to members of the Muslim community to help others by giving blood as part of the holy month of Muharram.

Donors were invited to attend the Edgware Blood Donor Clinic, at Edgware Community Hospital, in Burnt Oak Broadway.

Falah Shareef, of Trevor Gardens, Colindale, said: "This is the first time I have given blood. The Qur'an encourages us to save lives and that mankind is a source of good.

"Muslims are portrayed badly in the media and are shown as terrorists and a source of killing. The majority of

Muslims are peace-loving and support life.

"Next year we expect more donors. Religious leaders are starting to encourage Muslim people to give blood."

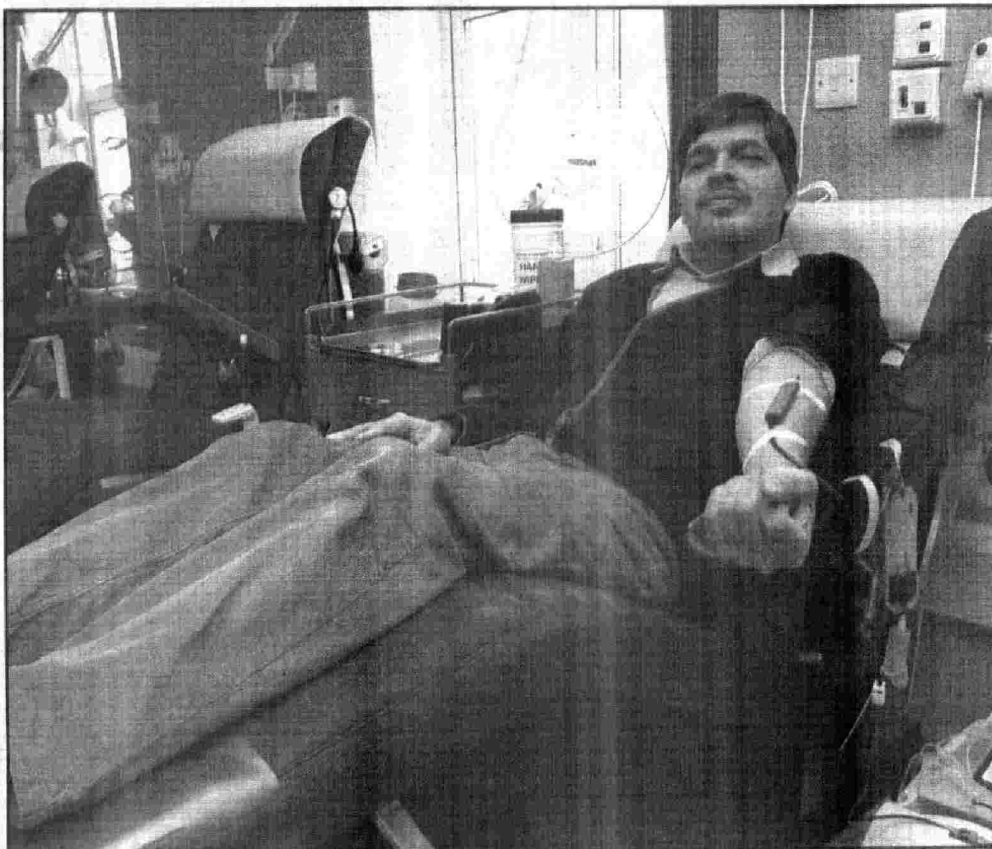
During Muharram, Muslims commemorate the martyrdom of Imam Hussain, grandson of the Prophet Mohammed. The IUS has been supporting the National Blood Service in its search for new donors from ethnic minorities, since the launch of the Imam Hussain Blood Donation campaign last year.

Currently, only three per cent of regular blood donors are from Asian, African or African Caribbean descent.

Haidar Abdali, of the Imam Hussain Blood Donation campaign, said: "The teachings of the Qur'an tell us that giving blood is okay, yet most Muslims are uncomfortable at the thought of donating.

"Our aim is to raise awareness and encourage more members of the Muslim community to give blood."

For more information, or to book an appointment to give blood, call the national helpline on 08457 711 711 or visit [www.blood.co.uk](http://www.blood.co.uk).



Helping to save lives: Falah Shareef gave his first blood donation at Edgware Hospital

This cutting is reproduced by Durrants under licence from the NLA, CLA or other copyright owner. No further copying (including the printing of digital cuttings), digital reproduction or forwarding is permitted except under licence from the NLA, [www.nla.co.uk](http://www.nla.co.uk) (newspapers) or CLA, [www.cla.co.uk](http://www.cla.co.uk) (magazines).

