



Advocacy Update

Sent October 18, 2011

Gilad Shalit Comes Home

Important news: The Jewish Telegraphic Agency reported yesterday that Hamas had released Gilad Shalit in Egypt earlier in the day, following five years and four months of captivity in Gaza. After crossing the border into Israel, Gilad Shalit was met by IDF (Israel Defense Forces) officials and Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and was then reunited with his family. He was said to be thin and pale, but, as reported by the IDF, is in good health.

Israel had started moving four-hundred and seventy-seven Palestinian prisoners to the Red Cross, as the first group, in a release of at least 1,000 Palestinian prisoners as agreed with Hamas for Gilad Shalit's release.

In their statement on his release, leaders of the Reform movement said, "Gilad's homecoming demonstrates the preciousness with which Israel treats the life of each and every IDF soldier." [Click here to read](#) the full URJ, RAC, and ARZA statement, as well as that of the [World Union for Progressive Judaism](#).

The Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations has informed us that Gilad's supporters and well-wishers are being invited to send him a welcome home message.

You and your sisterhood members can also plant a tree, without cost, in honor of Gilad Shalit's release from captivity and send a personalized certificate to the Shalit family! JNF, the Jewish National Fund, is offering this opportunity until Sunday, October 23, 2011.