

# JOINT STATEMENT

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## **Human beings are not bargaining chips Hamas must immediately end inhumane and illegal treatment of Gilad Shalit**

Marking five years since the capture of Gilad Shalit, Israeli, Palestinian and international human rights organizations state:

Staff Sergeant Gilad Shalit has been in captivity for five years. Those holding him have refused to allow him to communicate with his family, nor have they provided information on his well-being and the conditions in which he is being held. The organizations stress that this conduct is inhumane and a violation of international humanitarian law.

Hamas authorities in Gaza must immediately end the cruel and inhuman treatment of Gilad Shalit. Until he is released, they must enable him to communicate with his family and should grant him access to the International Committee of the Red Cross.

Amnesty International  
B'Tselem – The Israeli Information Center for Human Rights in the Occupied Territories  
Bimkom: Planners for Planning Rights  
Gisha – Legal Center for Freedom of Movement  
Human Rights Watch  
International Federation for Human Rights  
Palestinian Center for Human Rights, Gaza  
Physicians for Human Rights - Israel  
Public Committee Against Torture in Israel  
Rabbis for Human Rights  
The Association for Civil Rights in Israel  
Yesh Din – Volunteers for Human Rights