

From: Vincent Cassard [vcassard@icrc.org]
Sent: éáí ùðé 28 éåðé 2010 16:05
To: iajlj@goldmail.net.il
Subject: Gilad Shalit

Dear Mr Hertman, dear Mr Kohn,

Thank you for your fax of concern about the Israeli soldier Gilad Shalit.

Since Mr Shalit was captured in June 2006, the ICRC has tried by every means available to obtain information on his condition and to gain direct access to him.

We have repeatedly asked to be allowed to visit him or at the very least to facilitate the exchange of personal messages with his family. This request was made again in recent talks at the highest decision-making level. In addition, we have been constantly reminding his captors of their obligations under international humanitarian law.

We have also repeatedly made public our concerns regarding Mr Shalit's situation. On 14 June, we again urged those detaining Mr Shalit to grant him the regular contact with his family to which he is entitled. On the same date, we publicly stated for the first time that Hamas violates international humanitarian law by not allowing contact between Mr Shalit and his family. In addition, we reiterated that those detaining him have an obligation to ensure that he is well treated and that his living conditions are humane and dignified.

Other statements, including by the ICRC's president and other senior officials, can be found on our website: in June 2010,

<http://www.icrc.org/Web/Eng/siteeng0.nsf/html/israel-shalit-interview-230610>; in March 2010,
<http://www.icrc.org/web/eng/siteeng0.nsf/htmlall/israel-interview-230310?opendocument>; in June 2009,
<http://www.icrc.org/Web/Eng/siteeng0.nsf/html/palestine-news-180609>; in December 2008,
<http://www.icrc.org/Web/Eng/siteeng0.nsf/html/israel-interview-111208>; in May 2008,
<http://www.icrc.org/Web/Eng/siteeng0.nsf/html/israel-interview-300508>; in June 2007,
<http://www.icrc.org/web/eng/siteeng0.nsf/htmlall/israel-interview-070607?opendocument>).

In 2009, the ICRC visited about half a million people deprived of their freedom to monitor the conditions in which they are being held and the treatment they receive. In general, to gain access to people held captive the ICRC has to establish and maintain dialogue with the authorities or groups holding them. The same holds true in Mr Shalit's case, which is why we will pursue our contacts with all parties involved.

We have also been in regular contact with Mr Shalit's family, and we have kept them and the Israeli authorities informed of our actions.

Although the ICRC is not involved in negotiations for the release of Mr Shalit, we continue to do everything in our power to gain access to him. However, as in all such cases, the responsibility for Mr Shalit's treatment and living conditions lies entirely with those holding him. The implementation and enforcement of international humanitarian law is primarily the responsibility of parties to armed conflicts, be they States or other entities.

Yours sincerely,

Béatrice Mégevand-Roggo
ICRC, Head of operations for the Near and Middle East