

Gilad Shalit freed after five years in captivity



2006

- **Jun 25:** Nineteen year-old Israeli soldier **Gilad Shalit** seized in cross-border raid by Palestinian militants
- **Jun 28:** Israel invades Gaza Strip
- **Sep 15:** Letter from Shalit reaches his family via Egyptian mediators

2007

- **Jun 14:** Hamas takes power in Gaza from Fatah forces loyal to President **Mahmoud Abbas**
- **Jun 25:** Audio tape from Shalit's captors asks for medical treatment and release of Palestinians
- **Sep 8:** Israeli special forces capture Hamas commander to be used as "bargaining chip"

2008

- **Jun 9:** Hand-written letter received by Shalit's family through former U.S. President **Jimmy Carter's** organization
- **Jun 18:** Hamas and Israel agree truce
- **Dec 27:** Truce breaks down. Israel launches 22-day offensive in Gaza Strip. 1,400 Palestinians and 13 Israelis killed

2009

- **Jan 18:** Israel and Hamas agree ceasefire in Gaza
- **Feb 14:** Truce deal stalls with outgoing Israeli premier **Ehud Olmert** insisting on Shalit's release
- **Oct 2:** 20 female prisoners released in exchange for video proving Shalit is alive and well
- **Nov 25:** Israel refuses to release Hamas commanders in swap deal

2010

- **Jun 27:** Shalit's parents begin 12-day march to Prime Minister **Benjamin Netanyahu's** Jerusalem residence to press for prisoner swap

2011

- **Apr 9:** **Tayser Abu Snima**, allegedly involved in capture of Shalit, killed in IDF raid
- **Jun 23:** International Red Cross calls on Hamas to prove Shalit is still alive and in good health
- **Jul 4:** Defence Minister **Ehud Barak** puts pressure on Hamas by halting previously agreed transfer of bodies of 84 Palestinian militants
- **Oct 3:** Hundreds of jailed Palestinians go on hunger strike over toughening of prison conditions
- **Oct 11:** Deal announced that **Gilad Shalit will be released in exchange for 1,000 prisoners**

Hamas supporters celebrate

