

'I am the soldier Gilad, son of Noam Shalit, who was captured by Izz el-Din al-Qassam. Mom and Dad, sister and brother, my friends in the IDF – I send you my love and I miss you all. It has been a whole year in prison, and still my health is deteriorating. I am in need of prolonged hospitalization.

I am sorry for the Israeli government's and IDF's lack of interest in me and their rejection of the demands of Izz el-Din al-Qassam [the Hamas armed wing]. It is clear that they must accept their demands if they want me to be released from prison, especially since I was part of a military operation under military instruction and not a drug dealer.

And just as I have parents, a mother and a father, the Palestinian prisoners also have mothers and fathers - and their children must be returned to them. I have great confidence in my government that they will focus more on my issue and accept the demands of my captors. Corporal Gilad Shalit.'