

# Fun Facts About...

## Gilad Shalit

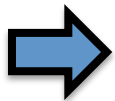
1986-present



Gilad Shalit began his military career at the end of July 2005; despite a low medical profile, he preferred to serve in a combat unit and followed his brother, Yoel, into the armored corps.



In 2006, Shalit was captured in a cross border raid near the Kerem Shalom crossing to the Gaza Strip. He was 20 years old.



Shalit was held in captivity for over 5 years. He was released on October 18, 2011 in a prisoner exchange with Hamas.



Israel released around 1,020 Palestinian prisoners and received their captive soldier, Shalit, in return.



In February 2012, Shalit traveled to Orlando, FL to watch the NBA All-Star Game. There, he met Omri Casspi, an Israeli basketball star who plays for the Cleveland Cavaliers.



Upon meeting Shalit, Casspi tweeted a picture of the two of them together with the caption, "I've dreamed of this moment for so long."



In 2009, Israeli singer and neighbor of the Shalit family, Maya Raviv, released a recording of *Mabat Einecha* (The Gaze in Your Eyes), written by the poet Rachel. Five Israeli radio stations dedicated to playing the song everyday at 2 p.m until Shalit's return.

