WASHINGTON D.C. (October 18, 2011) – Today, Rep. Jan Schakowsky (D-Ill.) released the following statement after the release of Israeli Army Sergeant Gilad Shalit:

"Today, I join with Israelis and friends around the world in celebrating the return of Gilad Shalit. Shalit's release, after five long years in captivity, is a cause for great joy and hope for the future.

Human beings should never be used as bargaining chips. We share in the Shalit's joy and relief at the safe return of their son.

In his first interview today, Shalit said, 'I hope this deal helps achieve peace between both sides, Israel and the Palestinians.'

We must work to turn his hope into reality by redoubling efforts to help Israel and the Palestinians negotiate a two-state solution that provides long-term security and stability in the region."

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