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Fw: Captured Israeli likely home Tuesday, family says (AP)

From: OpsNewsTicker

Sent: Friday, October 14, 2011 08:42 AM

To: NEWS-NEA; NEWS-Mahogany

Cc: SES-O

Subject: Captured Israeli likely home Tuesday, family says (AP)

JERUSALEM - (AP) A spokeswoman for the family of captured Israeli soldier Gilad Schalit says he will likely be returned on Tuesday.

Tami Shienkman said Friday that the Israeli military chief of staff, Lt. Gen. Benny Gantz, told the Schalit family the news.

It is the highest-level indication so far of the date for the first phase of a deal between Schalit's captors, Hamas, and Israel.

The Islamic militant group will free Schalit in exchange for over 1,000 Palestinian prisoners. Some 450 are set to be released in the deal's first phase.

Shienkman says the military chief emphasized that unexpected events could delay the deal. She says Gantz spoke to the family in their home in northern Israel on Thursday evening.

NewsTickers alert senior Department officials to breaking news. This item appears as it did in its original publication and does not contain analysis or commentary by Department sources.