
Israel frees Palestinians as part of Hezbollah deal

By Editor

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JERUSALEM, August 6, 2008 (AFP) - Israel on Wednesday freed five Palestinian prisoners as part of a UN-brokered prisoner exchange with the Lebanese Hezbollah militia, the prisons administration said.

'Five Palestinian prisoners were released from the Hasharon prison,' said prisons spokeswoman Yarona Linhar, adding that they would be taken to the West Bank.

She said the five were minors jailed for hurling rocks or firebombs and who were due for release by the end of next year.

The release of an unspecified number of Palestinian prisoners was part of an agreement concluded last month that saw Israel trade five Lebanese prisoners and the remains of some 200 Lebanese and Palestinian fighters for the bodies of two Israeli soldiers whose capture sparked the 2006 Lebanon war.

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