

*At least two Israeli soldiers  
severely injured in failed  
operation to rescue Gaza hostages*

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Tel Aviv, December 9 (RHC)-- At least two Israeli soldiers were severely injured during an operation overnight to rescue hostages held by Hamas in Gaza, the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) said in a statement on Friday. They are hospitalized in Soroka Medical Center in southern Israel and their condition remains "severely injured," a spokesperson for the hospital said Friday.

No hostages were rescued in the operation, the Israeli Army admitted. "During the operation, numerous terrorists who took part in the abducting and holding of hostages were killed," the IDF claimed. The military did not specify where in Gaza the operation took place.

The IDF said it continues "to operate in a variety of operational and intelligence methods, together with security organizations, in order to release the hostages, and to collect relevant information."

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