



## Concern for others, even as Israel frees two hostages in Rafah

Israeli operation brings a glimmer of hope following the failure of negotiations with the Hamas terrorist movement for a truce

By Antoine Dussarp (in Jerusalem) | Israel

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Freed. Louis Norberto Har, 70, and Fernando Marman, 60, kidnapped from the kibbutz Nir Yitzhak past October 7, were held in an apartment in Rafah, according to information from the Israeli army, when a commando unit rescued them from Hamas. This brings a glimmer of hope to Israeli society, following the failure of negotiations with the Islamist terrorist movement for a truce, as an offensive looms over Rafah, the last city in the southern Gaza Strip.

[...]

Researcher **Meir Elran, director of the internal research group at the INSS (Institute for National Security Studies)**, believes that the operation must be "surgical" to succeed and will be considered a "failure" if it does not bring back the majority of the hostages. "Israel has put everything in place to recover them, through a dual strategy of talks and military action. The operation, led by the Shabak, was high-risk. It was a very tough decision to make, and crucial for the country's morale," says the expert, who played an active role in the past in peace talks with Egypt and then with Jordan.

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