

# THE TIMES OF ISRAEL

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## 10 Israelis suspected of organ trafficking

### Illegal trade ring uncovered after complaints from foreign countries

By [Hillary Zaken](#) May 22, 2012, 1:45 pm



Illustrative photo of doctors performing a liver transplant (photo credit: Flash90)

Ten people were detained for questioning on Tuesday morning for allegedly being involved in a human organ trafficking ring.

The 10 are suspected of human trafficking, extortion and tax offenses. The police's National Fraud Investigation Unit and the Tax Authority are carrying out a joint investigation into the charges.

The trafficking ring was discovered after representatives of several foreign countries contacted Israeli authorities, requesting legal assistance due to suspicions that Israeli citizens were trading in kidneys in their countries.

The complaints exposed an illegal network of brokers and dealers in transplant organs, in which Israeli citizens recruited organ donors and recipients and also carried out transplant surgeries illegally.

The suspects will be remanded on Wednesday morning at the Rishon Lezion Magistrate's Court, according to Walla news.