

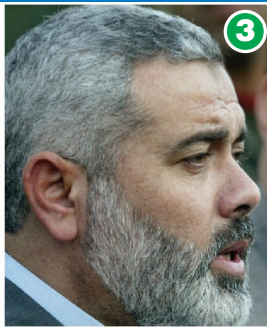
Key players in Islamic militant Hamas



1 Khaled Mashal, late 40s: Physics teacher and supreme leader of Hamas. Currently living in exile in Damascus, Mashal succeeded **Ahmed Yassin** and **Abdel Aziz Rantisi** who were both assassinated by Israel in 2004. Alleged mastermind of group's terrorist attacks against Israel. **Mashal took part in ceasefire talks with Israel in 2004**



2 Dr Mahmoud al-Zahar, 60: Hardline leader of Hamas in Gaza. Surgeon and former personal doctor to Yassin, al-Zahar was severely injured in airstrike on his home in 2003 in which his son was killed. **Could become Hamas' first Prime Minister**



3 Ismail Haniya: Presented Hamas' public face on TV during campaign. Was expelled from Palestinian territories to Lebanon in 1992. Regarded as pragmatic leader, he has acted as go-between with **Fatah** and **Palestinian Authority**. **A leading candidate for Prime Minister**

Others Said Siyam: Believed to be group's third most senior figure in Gaza with control over contact between Hamas, Fatah and **Islamic Jihad**

Hassan Yousef, 50: Also known as **Abu Masab**. The moderate leader of Hamas in West Bank was former head of **Zakat** – charity at al-Quds University