

# Ismail Haniyeh – Palestinian Prime Minister

■ **1962:** Born to poor refugee family at **Shati** refugee camp, Gaza

■ **1983:** Attends **Islamic University of Gaza**, becomes activist in **Islamic Student Bloc**, precursor to **Hamas**



■ **2001:** Haniyeh becomes one of **Hamas'** top three political leaders alongside Yassin and **Abdel Aziz Rantisi**

■ **2003:** Haniya and Yassin survive assassination attempt by Israel

■ **1987:** Graduates with BA in Arabic literature. Haniyeh is detained three times during mass uprising – **intifada** – against Israeli occupation

■ **1988:** Imprisoned for six months

■ **1989:** Imprisoned for three years for his role in Hamas resistance

■ **1992:** Deported to southern Lebanon along with more than 400 other Hamas activists

■ **1993:** Returns to Gaza – appointed Dean of Islamic University

■ **1997:** Appointed head of office of **Sheikh Ahmed Yassin** – Hamas' spiritual leader

■ **Sep 2000:** **Al-Aqsa Intifada** begins. Conflict claims almost 1,000 Israeli and more than 3,500 Palestinian lives

■ **Mar 2004:** Yassin assassinated

■ **Apr 2004:** Rantisi assassinated

■ **Dec 2005:** Described as a pragmatist who prefers compromise to conflict with Palestinian rivals, Haniya is elected to head Hamas' **List of Change and Reform**

■ **Jan 25, 2006:** Hamas List victory in **Palestinian legislative election**

■ **Feb 16:** Hamas selects Haniyeh as its choice for prime minister in meeting with Palestinian President **Mahmoud Abbas**

■ **Feb 21:** Abbas presents Haniyeh with official letter of appointment, calling on Hamas to accept existing agreements with Israel. **Haniyeh has five weeks to form a cabinet**