

Military balance between Palestinian rivals

The ruling Islamist movement *Hamas* and the secular *Fatah* faction formed a unity government in a Saudi-brokered deal in March 2007, but the agreement failed to resolve the crucial issue of control over security forces, and left armed groups fighting deadly turf wars

F A T A H



PRESIDENTIAL GUARD

Elite guard of Palestinian Authority President **Mahmoud Abbas** (above).

U.S. recently provided \$43.4m to strengthen guard and support national security adviser, **Mohammad Dahlan** (right)



Strength: **5,000**, and expanding fast – up from 2,500 when Hamas took power

NATIONAL SECURITY FORCES

Includes **Naval Police**, **Military Intelligence** and elite **Force 17**. Strength: **30,000**

PALESTINIAN POLICE

Dominated by Fatah loyalists.
Strength: **30,000**

AL-AQSA MARTYRS BRIGADES

Several thousand armed members, less well-equipped and organized than Qassam brigades

BADR BRIGADE

Jordan-based PLO force of at least 1,000

Pictures: AP

H A M A S



IZZ EL-DEIN AL-QASSAM BRIGADES

Armed wing of Hamas movement.
Strength: **15,000**

EXECUTIVE FORCE

Well-armed force deployed to tackle lawlessness in Gaza. Built from members of al-Qassam Brigades and militant factions such as **Popular Resistance Committees**. Strength: **6,000**

Hamas, headed by prime minister **Ismail Haniyeh** (above), is senior partner in national unity government. Designated as terrorist organisation by Israel, U.S. and EU

U.S. and Israeli security officials say Hamas receives money and weapons from Iran



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