

# Hamas's conventional army

Israel Defence Forces in the Gaza Strip face an army of close to 20,000 fighting men, among them the estimated 10,000-strong *Izz Al-Din Al Qassam Brigades*. The rest include 6,000 members of the Executive Force (police) plus some 3,000 militants from *Islamic Jihad*, the *Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine* and the *Popular Resistance Committees*

## MEDITERRANEAN SEA

★ Crossing points

Gaza City

**Bureij refugee camp:** Attacked by Israeli gunboats

Erez

Nahol Oz

Karni

**Deir al-Balah:**

Bombarded by tank fire

Rafah

Kissufim

**Khan Younis:** Israeli tanks attack refugee camp

Abassan

**Philadelphi Corridor:** Network of tunnels used to smuggle weapons from Egypt under attack

Sufa

Kerem Shalom

ISRAEL

EGYPT

## HAMAS WEAPONS

**Anti-aircraft guns** 14.5mm and 12.7mm

**Kalashnikov AK-47**

**BM-21 Grad rockets** 122mm range upgraded to 35km

**Qassam rockets** 90mm, 115mm, and new 175mm rocket with range of 18km

**RPG-7** Rocket-propelled grenade

**Izz Al-Din Al Qassam Brigades:** Since Israel's withdrawal from Gaza Strip in 2005, Hamas chief of staff **Ahmed Ja'abri** has restructured militia as a conventional army

**Six brigades** each divided into...

**Four-five battalions**

**Four-five companies**

**Three platoons**

**Three combat teams of eight fighters each**

**AT3-Sagger** Wire-guided anti-tank missile. Can hit target at 500-3,000 metres

**Shati refugee camp** UN Asma school hit

**Jabaliya refugee camp** UN al-Fakhora school hit

Beit Lahiya

Erez crossing

An Nazlah

Beit Hanoun

Port

GAZA CITY

**Netzarim** Former Jewish settlement

Al Qubbah

Nahol Oz

Karni

**Bureij refugee camp**

MEDITERRANEAN SEA

2km  
1.25 miles

ISRAEL

Gaza City surrounded by Golani and Givati brigades, paratroopers and Sayeret Matkal special forces. City cut off from Hamas reinforcements from south

Heavy fighting in outskirts of Gaza City