

Key events in history of Israel's Mossad

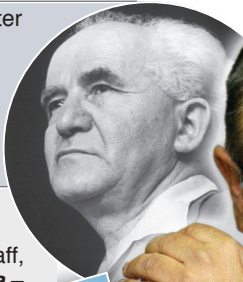
Dubai police officials say they are certain that Israel's spy agency, Mossad, was behind the targeted assassination of Hamas commander, Mahmoud al-Mabhouh, in a hotel in the emirate in January

■ **1949:** Israel's first Prime Minister **David Ben-Gurion** (*right*) forms Institution for Co-ordination, or Mossad, to control internal security and military intelligence. Director-general reports personally to prime minister

■ Tel Aviv-based Mossad, under spy chief **Meir Dagan** (*far right*), currently employs about 1,500 staff, including 100 field agents – **katsa** – and 48-50 members of assassination teams – **kidon**. Mossad has back-up system of tens of thousands of helpers – **sayanim** – worldwide

■ **1960, Operation Gideon:** Nazi war criminal **Adolf Eichmann** traced to Buenos Aires, Argentina. Ben-Gurion authorizes Mossad chief **Isser Harel** to kidnap Eichmann and smuggle him back to Israel, where he is tried and executed

■ **1972, Operation Wrath of God:** Authorized by Israeli Prime Minister **Golda Meir** following massacre of Israeli athletes at Munich Olympics by Black September and Palestine Liberation Organisation. Kidon team operates across Europe, killing 11 terrorists, as well as an innocent Moroccan waiter. Mastermind **Ali Hassan Salameh** killed by Mossad car bomb in Beirut in 1979



Al-Mabhouh: Killed Jan 20

■ **1990:** Canadian ballistics expert **Gerald Bull** assassinated in Brussels, Belgium, for his involvement in Supergun project of Iraq's **Saddam Hussein**



■ **1995: Faithi Shkaki**, head of Palestinian Islamic Jihad and suicide bomb mastermind, shot dead in Malta

■ **1997:** Failed attempt by kidon team to assassinate **Khalid Meshel** – leader of militant group Hamas – with lethal nerve agent in Amman, Jordan. Two Israelis captured by Jordanian police