

Egypt opens border with Gaza Strip

Egypt's decision to open its border with Gaza to ease entry restrictions for Palestinians marks a further policy shift since the overthrow of President Hosni Mubarak, whose government cooperated with Israel in enforcing the four-year blockade of the Hamas-ruled territory

- ★ Crossing points
- Refugee camps

4km
2.5 miles

BRIEF TIMELINE OF GAZA BLOCKADE

■ **Jan 2006:** Hamas wins Palestinian Authority legislative election

■ **Jun 2007:** Hamas seizes control of Gaza from Fatah after wave of fighting that kills over 100 people.
Israel tightens blockade of Gaza Strip

■ **Dec 2008:** Israel launches full scale invasion – around 1,400 Palestinians killed

■ **May 2010:** Israeli forces seize aid convoy of six ships aiming to break through blockade, killing nine Turkish activists

■ **May 3, 2011:** Unity deal between Fatah and Hamas signed

■ **May 28:** Egypt opens border

MEDITERRANEAN SEA

Philadelphi Route

Network of tunnels used to smuggle goods and weapons from Egypt



Rafah crossing: To be opened permanently from 09:00 to 17:00 except Fridays and holidays



Mohammed Hussein Tantawi

Despite lifting of blockade, Egypt has repeatedly restated its commitment to 1979 peace treaty with Israel

Picture: Associated Press

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