

# Israeli blockade crippling Gaza economy

Unemployment in the Gaza Strip remains among the highest in the world and real wages have slumped by an estimated 34.5% since 2007 when Israel tightened its blockade, according to a new UN report



**2006:** Israel imposes blockade after Israeli soldier **Gilad Shalit** (left) is snatched by Gaza-based militants

**2007:** Restrictions tightened after **Hamas** – which won Palestinian elections – seizes control of enclave from **Fatah**

Gaza Strip population  
**1,657,000**

Working-age population\*  
**862,000**

Labour force  
**347,540**  
(40.3% of working age population)

Employed **190,360**  
(54.8% of labour force)

Unemployed\*\* **157,180 (45.2%)**

EGYPT

GAZA STRIP

Maritime blockade zone

ISRAEL

WEST BANK

Tel Aviv

Ashdod

Jerusalem

25 miles

40km

*\*Age 15 years or older – of which around 30% are refugees. \*\*Includes those who have stopped searching for work in belief no work can be found*

Average non-refugee daily wage (second half 2010)

US\$**15.80**

People earning less than **\$1.25** a day (World Bank poverty level)

**300,000**