

Hamas and Fatah reach agreement

After a decade-long rift, rival Palestinian groups Hamas and Fatah have reached a preliminary agreement that could pave the way for President Mahmoud Abbas to resume governing the Gaza Strip



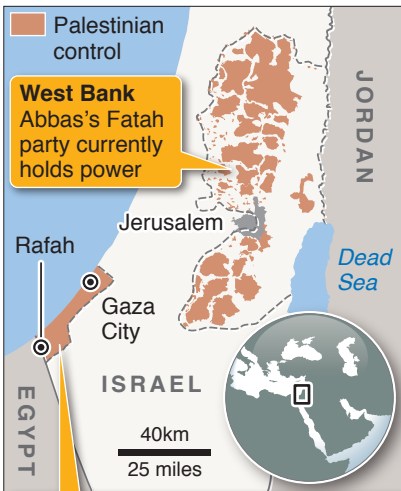
Ismail Haniyeh, Hamas leader

President Mahmoud Abbas

Fatah party

MAIN POINTS OF PRELIMINARY AGREEMENT

- **Administration:** Responsibility for Gaza to be handed to West Bank-based government of Prime Minister **Rami Hamdallah**
- **Rafah crossing:** Hamdallah's government to control Gaza side of border with Egypt, with possible European monitoring. Opening of crossing would end crippling blockade which prevents free trade and bars most of Gaza's two million people from leaving territory
- **Policing:** 3,000 Fatah security officers will join Gaza police force. Hamas would retain most powerful armed Palestinian faction, whose estimated 25,000 fighters have fought three wars with Israel since 2008
- **Committees:** To be set up to work out details of agreement, such as how thousands of Hamas civil servants would be integrated into government



Gaza Strip: Fatah lost control of territory to Hamas – seen as terrorist organisation by the West and Israel – during fighting in 2007