

Palestinian militant challenges election

Jailed Fatah party activist Marwan Barghouti is to field his own list of candidates in a direct challenge to Fatah President Mahmoud Abbas in forthcoming elections to the Palestinian parliament

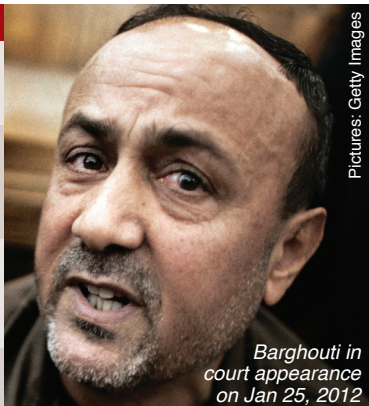
MARWAN BARGHOUTI, 61

■ Popular Palestinian militant, serving life imprisonment in Israeli prison for five counts of murder, which he denies

■ Breaking with party that controls Palestinian Authority poses direct challenge to President **Mahmoud Abbas**, 85

■ “**Freedom**” list headed by **Nasser Al-Qudwa** – nephew of party’s late founder **Yasser Arafat** – and Barghouti’s wife **Fadwa**

■ **Barghouti may run against Abbas in presidential election in July**



Pictures: Getty Images

Barghouti in court appearance on Jan 25, 2012

PALESTINIAN ELECTION TIMELINE



2005: — Abbas elected Arafat’s successor as head of Palestinian Authority

2006: **Hamas** Islamist party wins parliamentary elections, causing international backlash

2007: Hamas wrests control of Gaza Strip from Fatah-run Palestinian Authority

2009: Abbas’ term expires, but he chooses to stay in office

2012: Local elections on West Bank undermine Fatah’s position, as it wins only two-fifths of seats contested on 55% turnout

2017: Hamas signs reconciliation deal aimed at transferring control of Gaza to Palestinian Authority, but disputes stall implementation

2014: Fatah and Hamas agree to form unity government. Fatah complains that separate Hamas cabinet continues to rule Gaza

May 2021: Legislative elections

Jul 2021: Presidential elections