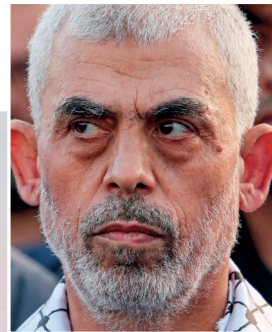


# Hamas mastermind Mohammed Deif

Mohammed Deif, the man behind Hamas' deadly assault on Israel, released an audio tape on the day of the attack, calling it payback for Israeli raids in 2021 on Jerusalem's Al-Aqsa mosque



■ **May 2021:** Israel storms Al-Aqsa mosque (*above*), enraging Arab world. **Mohammed Deif** (*inset left*) begins planning operation to avenge attack

■ **1965:** Born as **Mohammad Masri**, Deif grows up in Palestinian refugee camp of Khan Younis in Gaza

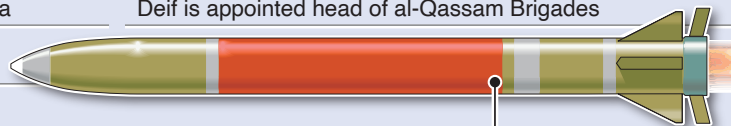
■ **1987:** Deif joins **Hamas** movement during first Intifada, or Palestinian uprising

■ **1988:** Graduates from Islamic University of Gaza with degree in science. Known for his love of acting, Deif creates Islamic theatre group **al-Ayedun** during this time

■ **1989:** Arrested by Israel for involvement with Hamas, jailed for 16 months. On release, Deif establishes **al-Qassam Brigades** with **Yehya Sinwar** (*inset right*), Hamas leader in Gaza. **Hamas source says decision to mount October 7 attack is taken jointly by Deif and Sinwar**

■ **1990s:** Rising through Hamas ranks, Deif develops network of tunnels and bomb-making expertise. Deif designs Qassam rocket

■ **2002:** At height of second Palestinian intifada, Deif is appointed head of al-Qassam Brigades



■ **2005: Qassam 3 developed** — 2.4m-long rocket fuelled by mixture of sugar and fertiliser. Warhead carries 8kg of TNT and urea nitrate. Range: 10-12km

■ **2014:** Israeli air strike kills Deif's wife, seven-month-old son, and three-year-old daughter

■ **2021:** Deif believed seriously injured in seventh Israeli assassination attempt since 2001