

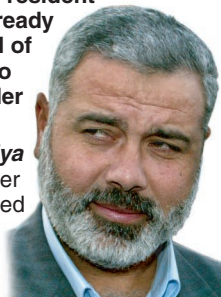
Palestinian Authority's division of power

Ahead of the Hamas takeover, Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas has broadened his already considerable authority, taking control of the state media and naming allies to top government jobs to make it harder for the Islamic militants to rule

Mahmoud Abbas
Elected to four-year term in 2005



Ismail Haniya
Hamas leader in Gaza tipped to become Prime Minister



Commands security forces

- Controls foreign affairs and conducts negotiations with Israel

Signs or vetoes legislation passed by parliament

- Appoints or dismisses prime minister – but only with approval of parliament

Can declare state of emergency for a period of up to 30 days

Recently acquired powers

- Controls **Palestinian Broadcasting Corp.** – which runs **Palestine TV** and **Voice of Palestine** radio station

- Appoints constitutional court which takes final decision in disputes with prime minister. **Court could block a Hamas effort to impose Islamic law**

Appoints Cabinet ministers

- Drafts policy, oversees ministries

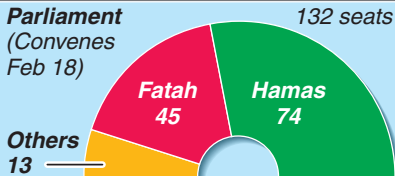
Handles day-to-day contacts with Israel on civilian matters

PARLIAMENT

- Approves budget and ratifies laws presented by Cabinet

- No-confidence vote with absolute majority can bring down government

Parliament
(Convenes Feb 18)



Despite absolute majority, Hamas falls short of two-thirds majority needed to override an Abbas veto on legislation

