

Mohammed Deif, Leader Of Hamas's Military Wing

Why In The News?

- Violence Has Been Raging Ever Since The Palestinian Militant Organization **Hamas Launched An Unprecedented Attack On Israel** On Saturday (October 7). The Toll Has Passed 3000 And Thousands Have Been Wounded On Both Sides.
- Hamas And A Smaller Group Named Islamic Jihad Have Also **Held Captive More Than 130 People** From Inside Israel And Brought Them Into Gaza, To Trade Them For The Release Of Thousands Of Palestinians Imprisoned By Israel.
- As Per Reports, **Mohammed Deif, The Leader Of Hamas' Military Wing**, Said **"Operation Al-Aqsa Storm"** Was In Response To The "16-Year Blockade Of Gaza, The Israeli Occupation And A Series Of Recent Incidents That Have Brought Israeli-Palestinian Tensions To A Fever Pitch". But **Little Is Known About Deif** Himself, Who Is Often Described As A "Shadowy" Figure.



Who Is Mohammed Deif?

- Deif Has Been The **Head Of Hamas's Military Wing Since 2002**. According To A Recent Profile In The Financial Times, He Was Born Mohammed Diab Ibrahim Al Masri In The Khan Younis Refugee Camp In Gaza During The 1960s.
- Gaza, At That Point, Had Been **Under Egyptian Control (From 1948 To 1967)**. Between 1967 To 2005, It Was Under Israeli Rule And Then It Came Under The

Palestinian Authority From 2005 To 2007. In 2007, A Hamas Coup Led It To Establish Its Control.

- The Report Said Either **Deif's Uncle Or Father Had Taken Part In The 1950s Raids** By Armed Palestinians Into The Same Area That Hamas Fighters Infiltrated In Israel On Saturday. Deif Later Went On To Join The Islamic University Of Gaza.

What Role Has Deif Played In Hamas?

- **Hamas Was Founded In The Late 1980s**, After The Beginning Of The First Palestinian Intifada, Or Uprising, Against Israel's Occupation Of The West Bank And Gaza Strip. The Israeli Capture Of The Two Areas Happened In The Course Of The **1967 Israeli-Arab War**.
- **Deif Was In His 20s Around The Time Of The First Intifada**. He Was Also Later Jailed By The Israelis, Who Held Deif Responsible For The Death Of Dozens Of People In Suicide Bombings, Including A Wave In 1996 That Killed More Than 50 Civilians.
- These Bombings Were In Response To The **Oslo Peace Accords** That Were Signed In The Early 1990s Between Israel And The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), The Body Representing Most Palestinians.
- The Accords Aimed To Bring About Palestinian Self-Determination, In The Form Of A Palestinian State Alongside Israel. But Hamas Was Against It On The Grounds That In The **1948 Arab Israeli War**, Israel Gained Control Of Palestinian Territories. The Accords, It Argued, Would Effectively Mean A Loss Of Territory For Palestine.



Attempts On Deif's Life

- Deif Had Been At The Top Of **Israel's "Most Wanted"** List For Years And Had Narrowly Escaped The Israeli Army's Efforts To Kill Him On Several Occasions. **US State Department** Has Also Designated Him As A Terrorist.
- The Many Attempts Have Reportedly **Left Him In A Wheelchair** After Losing An **Arm And A Leg**. While Other Organisations Have Claimed **He Has Also Lost An Eye**. Deif Has Sought **High-Impact Targets**, Such As Settlers And Soldiers In The Occupied Territories, Buses In Jerusalem And Tel Aviv.

