

## 'Will never recognize Israel' Hamas says

by UPI

GAZA -- A senior Hamas leader in Gaza said Wednesday on the 60th anniversary of the founding of Israel that the group has beaten the Jewish notion "of invincibility." Mahmoud al-Zahar said in Gaza that "the right of return is closer than ever" adding "the Zionist legend of invincibility has been destroyed," Ynetnews.com reported. "Now more than ever I tell you -- (we) will never recognize Israel ... We will form the Palestinian state on all of Palestine's territories and the sun of liberty will burn the Zionists. To them I say -- you will lose," he said. Israeli officials told Egyptian mediator Omar Suleiman any peace deal with Hamas must be separate from a prisoner exchange that included Gilad Shalit, the Israeli soldier abducted in 2006. "Hamas will not offer Gilad Shalit for nothing," Zahar said.

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