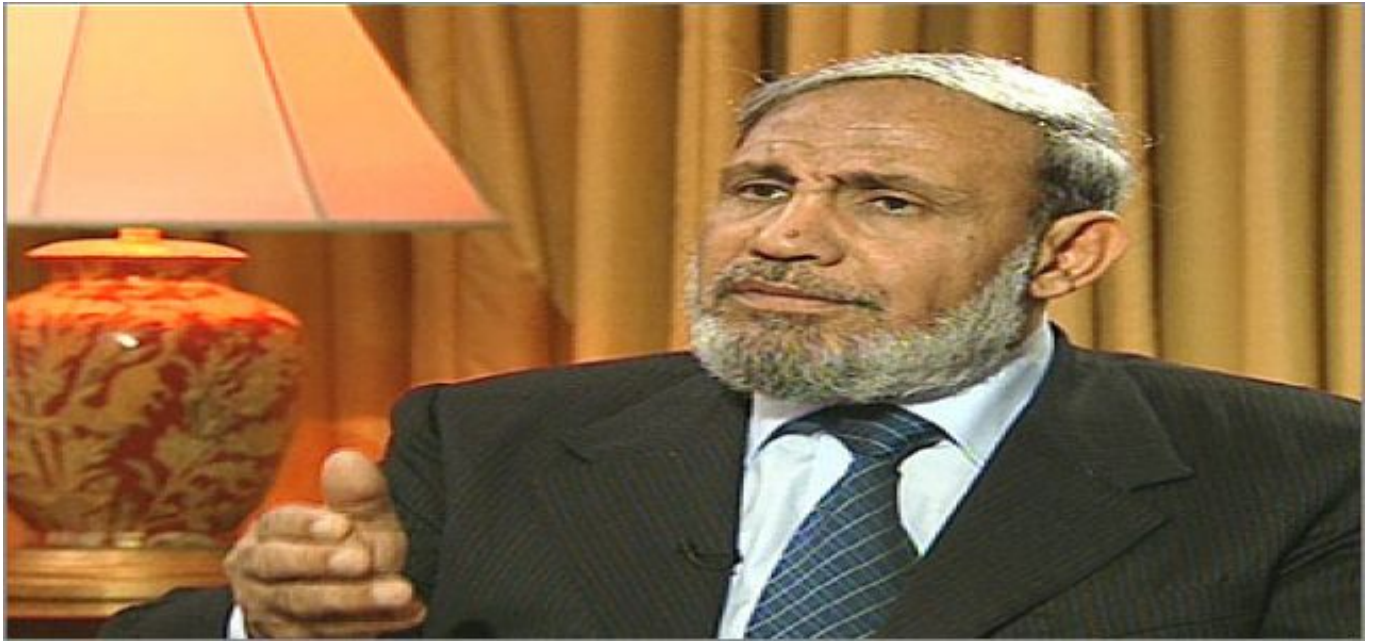


Zahhar asks for practical Arab steps to rebuild Gaza



Dr. Mahmoud Al-Zahhar, a political bureau member of Hamas, has asked the Arab countries to adopt practical decisions during their upcoming summit in Libya to rebuild the devastated Gaza Strip.

Zahhar told Al-Quds Al-Arabi newspaper published in London on Saturday that the internal Palestinian reconciliation should be forged before the summit.

He revealed that certain parties were trying to convince Egypt, which patronizes the Palestinian reconciliation, to take into consideration Hamas's remarks on the Egyptian proposed reconciliation document before the summit.

The Hamas leader said that his movement was not invited to the summit, adding that Mahmoud Abbas, the Fatah leader and the PA chief whose term in office had expired over a year ago, had threatened that he would not attend if Hamas was invited in a bid to display Fatah as the only party representing Palestinian legitimacy.