

# TIMESONLINE

NEWS COMMENT BUSINESS SPORT LIFE & STYLE ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT TRAVEL

MARKETS ECONOMICS INDUSTRY SECTORS COLUMNISTS MONEY LAW ENTERPRISE

Where am I? Home BUSINESS Industry Sectors Natural Resources



“Brown loves to meddle where there is no need” Michael Portillo

Send your views

OUR PAPERS AUDIO / VIDEO CLASSIFIEDS

RELATED REPORTS

Sponsored by

[MY PROFILE](#) | [OFFERS](#) | [SITEMAP](#)

From The Times

May 24, 2007

## Hamas says BG plan to pump gas to Israel an 'act of theft'

Sonia Verma in Jerusalem and Steve Hawkes

The militant Hamas movement has launched a stinging attack on BG Group and vowed to block a potential £2 billion deal being brokered by the company to supply Palestinian gas to Israel.

The Islamist group told The Times that any agreement would be equivalent to a modern-day “Balfour Declaration” – the British Government statement that formally approved the creation of an Israeli homeland in 1917.

Ziad Thatha, the Hamas economic minister in the Palestinian Government, said: “BG Group is an embarrassment to the Palestinian people.

“When a company sells Palestinian gas to the Zionist occupation, it is similar to acts of theft the Israelis are practising against our land every day.”

### RELATED LINKS

A peaceful and prosperous future

The comments threaten to overshadow key negotiations BG Group hoped would lead to the development of the Gaza Marine gas field it discovered seven years ago. Talks over a 15-year contract are due to begin next week and

the Israeli Foreign Ministry said it was keen to conclude a deal “as soon as possible”.

The Gaza Marine field is Pal-estine’s only sovereign natural resource and its development could generate £500 million for the Palestinian economy in royalties from BG Group. The gas would meet 10 per cent of Israel’s annual energy requirements. BG Group said that its priority was thrashing out a deal acceptable to the Israeli and Palestinian authorities. “We need a bilateral agreement for this project to get across the line,” a spokesman said.

However, Hamas controls a majority of the seats in the Palestinian Government. The more moderate Fatah Party reiterated yesterday that it wanted guarantees over how cash payments would be made before signing off any deal.

Mohammad Mustafa, the economic adviser to Mahmoud Abbas, the Palestinian President, said: “We hope that we will reach an understanding and remaining obstacles will be overcome.”

BG Group had been negotiating to pump gas from the field, which holds 1 trillion cubic feet of reserves, to Egypt before Tony Blair urged the company to give Israel a second chance last summer.

HAVE YOUR SAY

In response to SC,

The use of the term "Islamist" is not double standards, but trying to be more accurate than using the term "Islamic Fundamentalist", as the original Fundamentalist Groups were Protestant Christian, and based in the United States. Using the same term implies that the groups share characteristics beyond being fringe extremist religious groups, which they don't.

LB, London,

ESLOmbard, I agree with your view. The palestinians should pay the US. They could deduct the amount owed to the US out of the reparations the US is due to pay for its act of complicity alongside Israelis in their perpetration of the Palestinian Holocaust. .

ebob, London, UK

in the words of the Kaiser Chiefs 'I predict a riot'.

Bryne Stothard, Beijing, China

### EXPLORE NATURAL RESOURCES

- BANKING & FINANCE
- CONSTRUCTION & PROPERTY
- CONSUMER GOODS
- ENGINEERING
- HEALTH
- INDUSTRIALS
- LEISURE
- MEDIA
- NATURAL RESOURCES
- RETAILING
- SUPPORT SERVICES
- TECHNOLOGY
- TELECOMS
- TRANSPORT
- UTILITIES

### TIMES RECOMMENDS

- Full-scale inquiry into BSKyB's ITV stake
- OECD warns of danger as Chinese stocks wobble
- Overdraft fees row to hit Barclays profits

### QUOTE SEARCH

Company Fund

UK or US Companies

ENTER COMPANY NAME

SUMMARY

[Company Lookup](#)

[My Portfolio](#)

### RICH LIST 2007



### Britain's most wealthy

Find out who has joined the club with the £70 million entrance fee

### LIVERPOOL V AC MILAN



### FOCUS ZONE



### Upfront Rugby

Are rugby fans getting the game they deserve? See the site that offers readers the chance to tackle the issues

Your World  
Hidden Treasures

Cruise Revival  
Business Travel  
Entrepreneurs

### QUICKLINKS

#### SU DOKU



### Now Interactive

Do you Su Doku? Solve puzzles on screen with our unique interactive games

Su Doku  
Travel

Driving  
Podcasts

Career & Jobs  
Photo Galleries

### BUSINESS TOOLS

**UK and US equity quotes**, investment ratios, director dealings, broker forecasts & regulatory news

**UK Fund quotes**, fund information & holdings data

**Portfolio** - track your stocks, funds & other assets online

**Currency Converter** - get the latest exchange rates

**Times TV** - latest business news clips

### BUSINESS SPECIALS

**Entrepreneurs** Latest news and advice

**More than a Mobile** Find out about Wi-Fi mobile

**Greece 2007** Change and reform in Greece

**MBA Podcasts** Fast forward your career

**Easy Does It** Make your mobile minutes go further

**New Thinkers Welcome** in England's North West

**Business Travel** Information for smart travellers

### BUSINESS SERVICES

Business City Guides

## ALSO IN NATURAL RESOURCES

Hamas says BG plan to pump gas to Israel an 'act of theft'  
Canadian oil explorer drilling in Iraq to list in London  
Bid-for Alcan looks elsewhere

## ALSO IN INDUSTRY SECTORS

Kesa will have to 'sell more to stand still'  
Sweetener's failure in US leaves sour taste for Tate & Lyle  
McDonald's says McJob definition is mean



### Gerrard calls for heroes in Athens

Liverpool captain driven by desire to make history

No way back for Liverpool

## WORLD MARKETS

[Europe](#) [America](#) [Asia](#)

### FTSE 100



### FTSE 100

6,565.40 ↓ -0.77%

### DAX

7,697.38 ↓ -0.50%

### CAC 40

6,048.31 ↓ -1.13%

[More market data](#)

Delayed by 15 minutes  
Data from [Hemscott](#)



### Visit Business Travel

Tailor-made section with features and news for the Business Traveller



### Business City Guides

Overseas contacts and local information for your business

## MARKETS



### Business Week

Keep up with the coming week's key events

[UK Business Directory](#) [Compare Utilities](#)  
[Business Finance](#)

## BUSINESS EXTRAS

[Sunday Times Wine Club](#) [Credit Clinic](#)  
[Dating](#) [Job Search](#)  
[Archive](#) [Free Finance Brochures](#)

## BUSINESS EDUCATION

[Self-study Courses](#) [MBA](#)

## CLASSIFIEDS

[CARS](#) [JOBS](#)  
[PROPERTY](#) [TRAVEL](#)

## CARS OF THE WEEK

### Mercedes SLK200

2002/02  
£12,500  
Inside M25

### Audi A8 LWB

2005/54  
£24,750  
SE England

### Bentley GTC Convertible

2006  
£137,500  
SE England

### Car Insurance

Instantly available online or over the phone  
Best rates available

[Search for more cars and bikes](#)

Search Ad Reference:

[SEARCH](#)

Ads by Google

### [The Next Oil Boom](#)

Investing in the oil reserve 8 times bigger than Saudi Arabia's  
[www.investmentu.com](#)

### [A Muslim Europe?](#)

Edward Luttwak on Turkey's plans for the Islamisation of Europe  
[www.thefirstpost.co.uk](#)

### [Study Master of Diplomacy](#)

Get Masters degree in Asia-Pacific Diplomacy, relations & security  
[rspas.anu.edu.au/gsia/](#)

[Where am I?](#) [Home](#) [BUSINESS](#) [Industry Sectors](#) [Natural Resources](#)

[CONTACT US](#) | [BACK TO TOP](#)

[NEWS](#) | [COMMENT](#) | [BUSINESS](#) | [SPORT](#) | [LIFE & STYLE](#) | [ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT](#) | [TRAVEL](#)

Sponsored by [Live Search](#)

[SEARCH](#)

Contact our advertising team for advertising and sponsorship in Times Online, The Times and The Sunday Times.

© Copyright 2007 Times Newspapers Ltd

This service is provided on Times Newspapers' [standard Terms and Conditions](#). Please read our [Privacy Policy](#). To inquire about a licence to reproduce material from Times Online, The Times or The Sunday Times, click [here](#). This website is published by a member of the News International Group. News International Limited, 1 Virginia St, London E98 1XY, is the holding company for the News International group and is registered in England No 81701. VAT number GB 243 8054 69.