

# Netanyahu at Rabin memorial: I am a partner to his approach to peace

## Israeli dignitaries gather at Mount Herzl to mark 15 years since Rabin assassination; Peres: Peace need not divide our nation - it can unite us.

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Israeli dignitaries gathered Wednesday afternoon at the Mount Herzl military cemetery in Jerusalem to mark 15 years since the assassination of former prime minister Yitzhak Rabin.

"You were skeptical and careful, respectful and thoughtful, and you were determined to continue down a road leading to peace," Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said of Rabin at the ceremony. "I am a partner to your approach that we must always continue pushing for peace."



Israeli children looking at a memorial marking site where prime minister Yitzhak Rabin was assassinated, on the day marking the 15th anniversary of Rabin's assassination, October 20, 2010.

Photo by: Reuters

Netanyahu noted that since Rabin's assassination 15 years ago there has been a positive change in Israel, saying that "now we are less divided within ourselves."

"We now hear less screams, people listen to each other more, and social gaps are narrowing," he said.

Netanyahu also said that these days more Israeli citizens understand that in order for a peace deal to be achieved, then Israel must ensure its security, warning of the threats of fundamental Islam.

"In the 15 years that passed, fundamental Islam has strengthened. It won the elections in Gaza, took over southern Lebanon, and has threatened the United States," Netanyahu said.

President Shimon Peres addressed Rabin directly and said "we will not forget that you were murdered. You were murdered by an evil man who planned to kill the nation's spirit."



Former Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin

Photo by: David Mizrachi Haar

"Your contribution, Yitzhak, was the contribution of a rare man in a nation – for his nation, through the pits of despair, and the peaks of hope," Peres said.

"You had the quality so needed of one leading a nation: not looking back in anger, but looking forward with faith," said Peres. "You won the trust of the nation, a trust that crosses all lines... a trust that bridges generations."

"In war, as in peace, our abilities come from within," added Peres. "Allow me both as president and as Yitzhak's friend to say with an open heart: we have within us differences of opinions. I will not ignore those. But I ask of us all to contend with these differences in a democratic way, to make peace a possibility. Peace need not divide us. It is possible for peace to unite this nation."

Netanyahu, Peres, Defense Minister Ehud Barak, Israel Defense Forces Chief of Staff Gabi Ashkenazi, and Knesset Speaker Reuven Rivlin are a few among the government officials who attended the ceremony.

Rabin was shot to death by ultra-nationalist Yigal Amir following a peace rally in Tel Aviv in 1995.

Events surrounding the 15th anniversary of Yitzhak Rabin's assassination began Tuesday with a series of rallies and ceremonies nationwide.