



Janet Aviad – Peace Now founder

The huge demo of November 4th was planned by a committee, headed by Shlomo Lahat (Chich), Mayor of Tel Aviv. I, Tzali Reshef, and a few others represented Shalom Achshav, as part of the coalition of groups which organized the event, aimed at demonstrating that a large majority of the Israeli public supported Yitzhak Rabin and the Oslo accords.

This was to be our camps' united response to the vicious attacks upon Rabin personally and upon the path of peace with the Palestinians towards which he led Israel.

Shalom Achshav came in full force, and participated actively throughout the demonstration. I had decided not to stand on the stage, but to walk and talk with the participants. I found Yuli Tamir and her kids, and stood with her until the end.

We sang our anthem, Shir La-Shalom, and then walked to a near-by pizza stand. We ordered....and then suddenly a shiver went through the crowd on the street around us and everyone turned to the TV screen in the pizza restaurant. Silence, sadness.

We immediately understood that a disaster had occurred, and decided to skip the pizza and drive to Jerusalem, I was trembling as I entered my car and turned on the radio, which I followed all the way home.

The murder threw me into a furious mood of anger, directed towards the settlers' right and the political Right. On media interviews, I rejected the emerging trend of national reconciliation, dialogue and healing. I believe, now as I did then, that if the investigation of the rabbis who supported the extreme religious right had been carried out fully, the anti-democratic phenomena, the violence and cover-up of its perpetrators, so prevalent among settler youth today might have been uprooted then.