

## Anat Ben Nun - Peace Now's Director of Development & External Relations

"Somebody shot Itzhak Rabin," my sister said on the phone. Shocked, we turned on the TV, but it took some time until the special news editions began. I was 11 years old at the time and I was horrified. My parents tried to soothe me but they must have been just as upset. I still remember their excitement in 1992, when Rabin became Prime Minister. Even I, as a young girl, had chanted "Israel is waiting for Rain" during the '92 election campaign. The years between 1992 and 1995 were years of hope. Years in which enemies were becoming partners and peace was becoming more than a

distant dream. Watching the signing of the Oslo agreement in 1993, I did not know that some 20 years later I'd be working with one of those who initiated them, the late Ron Pundak, on achieving the same goal.

Back to November 4th 1995, we were glued to the TV screen, waiting for news on the Prime Minister's conditions and trying to grasp what had just happened, and why. Then came Eitan Haber's "in dismay, in great sadness, and in deep sorrow" and the famous sigh of all of those around him. And ours. During the next few days I watched the "candle youth" on television, and felt that I could not sit still. I joined a few Peace Now activities out of the feeling that I had to do something so that the path for peace - led by Rabin and because of which he was assassinated - could continue.

Years later, after finishing my studies and gaining more knowledge and awareness of the reality beyond the green line, just like in 1995, I turned to Peace Now. To me, Peace Now has been and still is the most relevant non-governmental movement working toward the two state vision, the solution that the majority of Israeli society still support, despite everything. There's much work ahead, as unfortunately some of those who incited against Rabin and his path for peace in 1995 are now in power positions. But we must keep struggling as in 2015, given the reoccurring waves of violence and continued settlement expansion, Israel needs peace and two states more than ever before.