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I will never forget where I was on the night in which Yitzhak Rabin was murdered.

In 1995 I was an IDF combat soldier serving in the Gaza Strip. My unit was tasked with guarding Kfar Darom, a religious settlement adjacent to Deir al-Balah, in the southern part of the Gaza Strip. My friends and I came from a youth movement associated with the Labor Party and had a clear, solid political worldview. We were young teens when Rabin was elected prime minister, and his actions in office were a realization of our dreams of having a leader who would lead Israel down the path of peace.

I was ambivalent about guarding a settlement, torn between my sense of duty as a disciplined soldier and my opposition to a Jewish settlement surrounded by hundreds of thousands of Palestinians. This sense of frustration and alienation accompanied me throughout my service there, and reached its peak on that night of November 4th.

During the rally in Tel Aviv, I was at the only guard post at Kfar Darom that was equipped with a radio. I listened to the live broadcast from the Square, frustrated about not being able to be there. As the news came that Rabin was shot and injured, I left my post, ran to my friends' tent, and broke the news: "Rabin was shot!"

You can only imagine the sense of shock, rage and mourning that my friends and I felt that night. It escalated in the coming days, as tension grew between us and the settlers we were sent to guard, some of whom showed indifference to the murder. It was the Palestinians, and even the Thai workers at the greenhouses who expressed sympathy and pain.

During those days I kept thinking that an isolated settlement in the Gaza Strip was the last place in which I wanted to be as my country was grieving our slain prime minister. I felt imprisoned as I guarded with my body a settlement that I rejected and a group of people, some of whom viewed Rabin as an enemy or a traitor.

Rabin's assassination changed me. It contributed to the fact that since then I have been involved in numerous activities aimed at turning Israel into a better place. The national trauma was also a personal trauma for me. It largely shaped who I am, what I do today and most probably what I will do in the future.