

Incitement or Protest

Activity for Rabin's Assassination Memorial Day on Limits of Democracy for Grades 8 – 10–

In the period leading to the assassination, Yitzhak Rabin made controversial political moves. Much criticism was directed at the government, and especially at the prime minister. The opposition to the political moves, the Oslo Agreement, was marked by blatant incitement against the prime minister. Many argue that this incitement is what allowed and even legitimized the assassination. Following the murder, a law prohibiting incitement was passed.

The purpose of the activity is to examine and clarify the limits of democracy - what expressions and actions are legitimate and important protests and what expressions serve as incitement to murder or crimes.



1. Divide the participants into groups of 3-5 and give each group cards containing a list of expressions and actions spoken or displayed at demonstrations or by the media in the period preceding the murder:

- "Rabin is a murderer"
- "Death to Rabin"
- Rabbi Goren: "Jewish blood will be shed, we shall not leave Hebron"
- "With blood and fire we will overthrow Rabin "
- We want revenge
- Avigdor Eskin: "Pulsa diNura" prayer in front of Rabin's house
- Rabin in the "Moked" program: "As long as the government I head has a majority of one, I will continue negotiations"
- Sign at a demonstration before the murder: "Here a candle is lit in memory of Rabin"
- "The people did not sign"
- Benjamin Netanyahu: In the elections we will reach a clear and unequivocal decision
- Damage done to cars of Minister of Housing Ben-Eliezer and Prime Minister Rabin
- Mass demonstrations in front of the Knesset and Zion Square

2. Instruct each group to divide the cards into two categories: which expressions reflect legitimate protests, and which of them are considered incitements.
3. Instruct participants to restore to a circular sitting arrangement and ask them to compare the divisions made by each group, and check for gaps.



Questions for Discussion:

1. What expressions were categorized unanimously and on which of them were there disagreements?
2. What do the expressions / actions defined as incitement have in common?
3. What criteria turns a statement or action into an act of incitement?
4. Does it matter who said it? (A private person or a public figure, a person who is a teacher / a rabbi / a leader)
5. Is it important to consider the place and context in which things are said (privately or publicly)?
6. Does the media assume a role in inciting or regulating criticism and incitement? What is the role of the media?
7. What should we do as involved citizens in order to encourage democratic expressions, while to also prevent incitement?





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Center**

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Jewish Holidays

**”Rabin is a
Murderer”**

”Death to Rabin”

**Rabbi Goren:
”Jewish blood will
be shed, we shall
not leave Hebron”**



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We want revenge

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**"The people did
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