# Amir Peretz

## Member of Parliament, State of Israel

### Biography

Amir Peretz was born in Morocco and immigrated to Israel at age four. He was raised in the development town of Sderot, served 5 years as an officer in the army and after being critically wounded returned to his hometown, where he was elected as Mayor in 1983, bringing the left back to power. As early as 1984, Peretz publicly voiced his support for an independent Palestinian State and led peace-promoting initiatives between residents of the town and their neighbors in the Gaza Strip.

In 1988, Peretz was elected to the Knesset and has served consecutively as a member of parliament ever since. Peretz is known for bringing to the forefront social justice issues and personally leading such groundbreaking bills as the national health bill and the minimum wage bill. In December 1995, Peretz became Chairman of the Histadrut and in a period fraught with social struggle successfully advanced workers rights and the weaker segments of society.

In 1999 and 2003 Peretz established and led his own social justice party – Am Ehad – and after returning to the Labor Party was elected its Chairman in 2006, leading Labor to unexpected success at the poles, with a respectable 19 mandates. Upon entering into a coalition government with the newly formed Kadima, Peretz served as Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defense, till June 2007.

Today, MK Peretz is a member of several Knesset committees including the Economic Affairs and Foreign Affairs and Defense Committees and remains as dedicated as ever to promoting a vision of social justice and peace for the State of Israel. Together with several members of his party, he is currently working on an initiative to put forth a new agenda for the Israeli peace camp.