**MK Omer Barlev Bio**

**(2018)**

MK Omer Barlev was first elected to the 19th Knesset on February 2013 as a member of the Israeli Labor Party and was reelected to the 20th Knesset on March 2015. As a Member of Knesset, Mr. Barlev sits on the Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee, chairing it’s subcommittee for Military Readiness and Routine Security, and as well a member in the subcommittees for Intelligence, Cyber and other. MK Barlev is an alternative member in the Finance Committee, and he is Co-Chairman of the Agriculture Caucus, the Secular Caucus, the Housing Caucus, the Caucus for Fair Pension and the Caucus for the Promotion of the Needs of the Bedouin Population in Israel.

Prior to his political career, MK Barlev enjoyed a long career mainly in the Israeli Medical Hi-Tech industry and prior to it served in the IDF. MK Barlev served as the commander of the IDF's Special Forces in the years 1984-1987. After completing his Master's degree in International Relations in 1988 Mr. Barlev served as a member of the IDF's delegation for the negotiations between Israel and the PLO (1993) and then after took part in negotiating the peace agreement with Jordan (1994). He holds a BSc in Agronomy from the Hebrew University in Jerusalem and a Master's degree in International Relations and Strategy, from Tel Aviv University. His M.A thesis which dealt with potential security arrangements between Israel and Syria in the Golan Heights was published in 1992 as a book entitled "Security Arrangements in the Golan at the Future Battle Field".

After the assassination of Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin Mr. Barlev initiated and founded the movement 'Acharai' as an NGO (1997). “Acharai” is a refrain used in the [IDF](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Israel_Defense_Forces) which means "Follow Me" the call of the Israeli commander to his soldiers in the battle field. Acharai's mission is to empower Israeli youth in the periphery whether geographical or social-economic and to strengthen their involvement and empathy to the [democratic](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Democracy) and [Zionist values](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Zionism). Within 15 years Acharai became one of the biggest and most successful Israeli youth organizations.

Omer Barlev is married to Tami and the father of Noam, Mai and Shahar.