

Knesset plenum on attack sparsely attended

REBECCA ANNA STOIL

JERUSALEM - Only 20 MKs attended Monday's special Knesset plenum debate on Saturday night's deadly shooting attack at a Tel Aviv centre for gay youth.

Gay MK Nitzan Horowitz (Meretz) called on Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu and Education Minister Gideon Sa'ar to give the education system the tools to deal with prejudices for the sake of education, democracy and tolerance.

"It's inconceivable that in the state of Israel, there are entire sectors in which the issue is taboo in their education establishments," he said.

During an interview on Army Radio on Sunday morning, Horowitz had said, "The Knesset must declare

that this was a terror attack against the whole of Israeli society and our right to live freely."

Stressing that the murderer had not been caught and the motive had still not been determined, the Meretz MK said, however, that the attack appeared to be "the result of incitement of entire communities against us".

Netanyahu on Sunday condemned the shooting attack and promised to bring the perpetrator to justice.

"I unequivocally condemn the shocking murder," Netanyahu said at the start of the weekly cabinet meeting. "I have spoken with Public Security Minister Yitzhak Aharonovitch and stand by the police in searching for and finding the killer. We will bring him to justice and will prosecute him to the fullest extent of the law."

Netanyahu sent his condolences to the families of the two people killed in the attack and wished the wounded a speedy recovery.

"I say to the Israeli people: We are a democratic country, we are a country of tolerance, a country of laws, and we must respect every person, whoever and wherever he is," he said.

President Shimon Peres released a statement condemning the attack. "Murder and hate are the two most terrible crimes in society," Peres said. "Police must make a supreme effort to capture the loathsome murderer and the people must join together in condemning this despicable act."

Opposition leader Tzipi Livni also expressed her "sadness and shock" on Sunday morning.

"Even if the details are not yet fully



Meretz MK Nitzan Horowitz

Photo: Nitzan Horowitz

known, hate exists and we must deal with it," Livni said in a statement. "This difficult event must bring society to shake off prejudice, and to accept and recognise the right of every person to live in respect and safety." **JPOST.COM**