

# Ehud Barak to form new political faction

Israeli defence minister Ehud Barak has resigned as head of the Labour party to form his own group. Barak and four other party members will remain in the government, but the remaining eight Labour members will most likely quit the coalition to join the ranks of the opposition

- **1942:** *Ehud Barak* born in kibbutz, joins Israeli army at age 17
- **1972:** Leads team of commandos in rescue of hostages on hijacked Belgian airliner at Tel Aviv airport
- **1973:** Takes part in controversial mission to assassinate **PLO** members in Beirut, Lebanon
- **1976:** Helps plan **Entebbe** raid to free Palestinian-held hostages on hijacked French plane in Uganda
- **1991-95:** Chief of armed forces
- **1999-2001:** As prime minister, oversees withdrawal of Israeli troops from south Lebanon and takes part in failed attempt to reach final peace deal with Palestinians at **Camp David** summit in 2000
- **2007-09:** Defence minister in **Ehud Olmert's** government. Architect of 2008-09 offensive in Gaza Strip
- **2009:** Retains defence post in **Benjamin Netanyahu's** coalition
- **Jan 17, 2011:** Creates new faction, **Atzmaut** (*Independence*) – which completes split in Labour party over handling of Mid-East peace process



Labour: 13 – prior to split

**Netanyahu coalition: 74 seats**

