

SHAYKH MOWAFAK TARIF

Born in 1963 in Julis Village in the Galilee, he is the spiritual leader of the Druze community in Israel.

He is a descendent of the Tarif family that has been leading the Druze community in Israel since 1753 and the grandson of Shaykh Amin Tarif, the spiritual leader of the Druze in the Middle East to whom Shaykh Mowafak Tarif served as personal assistant for fifteen years. In October 1993 he was appointed spiritual leader for the community and since 1997 he has served as Chairman of the Supreme Druze Religious Council, which was established and expanded under his initiative.

Shaykh Mowafak Tarif graduated from the Al-Baida post-secondary school for Druze studies in Lebanon and has a B.A. in Law. He is the highest spiritual authority of the Druze community in Israel. He represents the Druze community's matters in connection with Israel's national authorities. He initiated the Center for Druze Studies at the site of the Shrine (Makam) of the Prophet Jethro (Shu'ayb), which provides religious and traditional Druze education for youth.

As the leading Druze spiritual authority, Shaykh Mowafak Tarif is also responsible for the holy sites, including the Shrine of the Prophet Jethro. Since 2002 he has served as a judge (*qadi madhab*) in the Druze Religious Court of Appeals.

He heads Israel's Druze society in its efforts to achieve equal rights as well as recognition of the community's duties - first and foremost to serve in the Israel Defense Forces, in the belief that it is morally incumbent on all members of the Druze community to contribute to the safekeeping of Israel's borders and citizens. Under the leadership of the Tarif family, the Druze community in Israel has been recognized as an independent ethnic group and its education system has been given independent status and its own division in the Ministry of Education and Culture.

Shaykh Mowafak Tarif promotes dialogue for mutual understanding and respect; tolerance, love, and the pursuit of peace between peoples and religions. As one who believes that the future of the Druze community is founded in its education, he encourages awareness of the importance of higher education within the community and supports academic study by promoting its values and by granting annual scholarships for Druze students from the Druze Religious Council.

He strives for peace and to create a bridge of understanding between the religions in Israel and abroad. He maintains constant communication with leaders and members of the Druze community in Syria, Lebanon and Jordan, despite the borders and restraints between them, and he consistently collaborates with the heads of the other religions in Israel, fostering friendship among the different ethnic groups.

Shaykh Mowafak Tarif serves as a personal example for the members of the Druze community and for the entire society of Israel.

University of Haifa

The Senate of the University of Haifa, by virtue of the authority vested in it by the constitution of the University and in accordance with the recommendations of the President and the Executive Committee

hereby confers upon

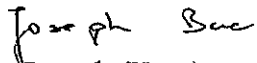
Mowafak Tarif

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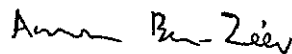
Doctor of Philosophy, Honoris Causa

in recognition of the personal example that he sets for the Druze community and for the entire Israeli society in upholding a world view that promotes understanding, love of peace and conflict resolution through mutual respect and dialogue; his activities and investment in creating a bridge between different ethnic groups; strengthening the firm bond and neighborly relations between the University of Haifa and the Druze community; his great contribution to equality; and his commitment to the State of Israel.

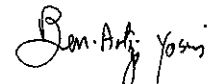
Conferred in Haifa, Israel
19 Sivan 5770/June 1, 2010



Dr. Joseph (Yossi) Bachar
Chairman of the Executive Committee



Prof. Aaron Ben-Ze'ev
President



Prof. Yossi Ben-Artzi
Rector