

## 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

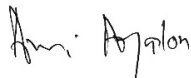
**Alberto Ruiz-Gallardón**

the degree of

**Doctor of Philosophy, Honoris Causa**

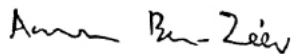
in recognition of his courageous leadership in closing the gap between people of different cultures, nationalities and religions – values inherent in the mission and philosophy of the University of Haifa, Israel's most pluralistic University; for the respect and admiration he has for Jewish culture in general and Jewish heritage in Spain in particular; his personal involvement in establishing Casa Sefared- Israel; his unwavering support and deep friendship for the State of Israel and the Jewish People; and for his contribution to building ties between the Spanish and Israeli people, both as Mayor of Madrid and as Minister of Justice in Spain.

Conferred in Haifa, Israel  
13 Sivan 5772/June 3, 2012



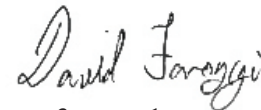
**Ami Ayalon**

Chairman of the Executive Committee



**Prof. Aaron Ben-Ze'ev**

President



**Prof. David Faraggi**

Rector



# MINISTER ALBERTO RUIZ-GALLARDÓN

Spanish Minister of Justice

Mr. Alberto Ruiz-Gallardón was born in 1958 in Madrid. He began his political career in 1977, at the age of nineteen, when he joined Alianza Popular (Popular Alliance), later called Partido Popular (Popular Party). At the same time, he began working in his chosen profession as a lawyer.

From 1987 until 2003, he served as Deputy in the Madrid Legislative Assembly (the Regional Parliament) and from 1987 to 1995 was Senator in the Spanish National Senate, representing the city of Madrid. Mr. Ruiz-Gallardón held many positions in the Popular Party including spokesman for the Parliamentary Group and member of the Executive Committee of the Party.

In 2003, he was elected to the office of Mayor of Madrid. In the general elections which took place in Spain in 2011, he was elected to serve as a Member of National Parliament for Madrid from the Popular Party. After the establishment of the government, Mr. Ruiz-Gallardón was appointed Minister of Justice, a position he still holds.

Throughout his years in public service, Mr. Ruiz-Gallardón has demonstrated commendable social leadership, especially in his pluralistic and multicultural approach, promotion of cooperative activities, and support for acceptance and understanding between different cultures.

He is greatly revered for his relationship to Judaism, particularly to the State of Israel. In 2006, as Mayor of Madrid, he signed an agreement to fund Casa Sefared-Israel, a cultural center established in Madrid to honor the present and past Jewish community in the city. During that same year, he dedicated “Yitzhak Rabin Square” in Madrid.

As Mayor of Madrid, Mr. Ruiz-Gallardón has lighted the Hanukkah candles in the city and has delivered a series of speeches in which he consistently emphasizes his commitment, and that of the city of Madrid, to tolerance and acceptance of all religions and nationalities.

In 2009, Mr. Ruiz-Gallardón attended the Samuel Toledano Prize ceremony and delivered a speech in which he stated that the Jewish expulsion “was a loss for Spain that we would not allow nowadays because our national identity aims to integrate Jewishness”.