

## 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

**Uri Lubrani**

the degree of

### **Doctor of Philosophy, Honoris Causa**

For recognition of his long term contribution to the security and achievements of the State of Israel; for his numerous activities, some still unknown to this day, which began in his youth with the struggle to establish a state, and continue to the present; for his extensive diplomatic activities to advance the goals of the State of Israel in the world, and primarily his involvement in strengthening strategic connections with Iran during the era of the Shah; for striving to integrate the Druze sector into Israeli society, an undertaking of national importance that is shared by the University of Haifa; and for the central role he assumed in bringing the Jews of Ethiopia to the State of Israel.

Conferred in Haifa, Israel  
27 Iyar 5774/May 27, 2014



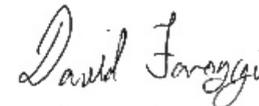
**Ami Ayalon**

Chairman of the Executive Committee



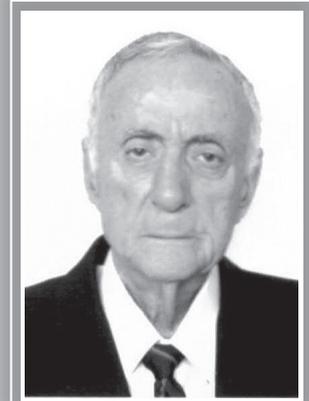
**Amos Shapira**

President



**Prof. David Faraggi**

Rector



## URI LUBRANI

Uri Lubrani was born in Haifa in 1926 and completed his elementary and high school studies at the Reali School on the Carmel. Even as a young man, Lubrani was active on behalf of Israel's security, volunteering to serve in the Haganah, and later, the Palmach. He took part in operations of the Hapala (the illegal immigration of Jews to Eretz Yisrael). In 1946, Lubrani was sent abroad on behalf of the Haganah to serve, among other positions, as the commander of a Haganah training camp in the town of Tretz in southern France. There, volunteers from English-speaking countries were recruited and prepared for the War of Independence. Lubrani returned to Israel with one such group and served in a number of combat units.

With the ending of the War of Independence, Lubrani joined The Middle East Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. In 1950, he was appointed Secretary and Bureau Head for Foreign Minister, Moshe Sharett. Between 1953 and 1956, Lubrani took time off from matters of state and earned his BA from the University of London. In 1956, he returned to Israel and was appointed deputy advisor for Arab affairs for Prime Minister David Ben-Gurion. A year later, he was appointed to the position of advisor. In this role, Lubrani was dedicated to the development of Arab villages and recruiting members of the Druze community to serve in the Israel Defense Forces. In his next role, Lubrani went on to serve as Bureau Manager and Secretary of Policy for Prime Minister Levi Eshkol.

In 1964 Lubrani joined the diplomatic corps, and was appointed Israel's ambassador to Uganda and non-resident ambassador to Rwanda and Burundi. Later, Lubrani was appointed ambassador of Ethiopia, and served in this position for some five years. Following a four-year hiatus from public service, Lubrani returned to diplomatic service in 1973, at the request of Prime Minister Golda Meir. During this period, he served as Israeli ambassador to Iran, a position he held until the outbreak of the Islamic Revolution. Lubrani was later appointed in 1983 to oversee Israel's operations in Lebanon. In this position he maintained contacts with Nabia Beri, leader of the Amal movement, in an effort to advance the release of Ron Arad.

Due to Lubrani's extensive connections in Ethiopia, he was selected to be Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's special envoy, overseeing diplomatic contacts between Israel and Ethiopia. These interactions led to Operation Shlomo, and the immigration of most of Ethiopia's Jews to Israel.

Lubrani continued to serve as consultant to the Minister of Defense and the coordinator of government operations in Lebanon until 2010. With the IDF's withdrawal from Lebanon, Lubrani was appointed consultant for the Ministry of Defense and after that, for the Ministry of Strategic Affairs.

During his service, Lubrani was awarded the Jabotinsky Medal and the Ben-Gurion Prize. He received an honorary doctorate from Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, and he was also awarded the Outstanding Member of the Civil Service Prize.