

The pattern of fictitious litigation suits fits the case the Taffuh villagers brought against Husayn. Having now read between the lines of the court record and concluded what this case most probably aimed to achieve, we may now address the question you undoubtedly have been asking yourself while reading the preceding pages: why is there a large discrepancy between the number of landowners as stated in the court case – twenty-four -- and the seven recorded in the property-value assessment register of 1876?

Seven Owners and/or Twenty-Four?: The Harmonious Dissonance in the Documents

To return briefly to the present-day conflicts calling attention to Jamrūra that were mentioned at the beginning of this chapter,³⁴² in light of Israeli confiscations of Jamrūra lands beginning in the 1980s, residents of Taffuḥ traveled to the Tapu ve Cadastro Archive in Ankara, Turkey, in pursuit of proving their longstanding usufruct rights to Jamrūra lands. The villagers were given rare access to this repository, whose nineteenth-century records remain closed to researchers.³⁴³ Among the Ottoman-era files, they were able to gather their

³⁴² See details in footnote 306.

³⁴³ In the first decade of the twenty-first century, the Turkish government granted the archive permission to give to the Palestinian Authority copies of all its Ottoman-era documents on land ownership in Palestine, reportedly some 4,000 pages of documents. (The files have not been made available to researchers.) The news made headlines in Israel/Palestine and Turkey. See, for example, “Turkia he’avira HaArchion Ha’Othmani le-Falistinaim” (Turkey transferred the Ottoman Archive to the Palestinians), *Channel 7*, 21 April 2010, (www.inn.co.il/News/News.aspx/203286 , accessed 12 April 2015), Hebrew; “Turkey transfers Ottoman land records to Palestinian Authority”, *Haaretz* (English edition), 11 October 2006 (www.haaretz.com/news/turkey-transfers-ottoman-land-records-to-palestinian-authority-1.171734 , accessed 12 April 2015); “Turkiya tusallimu al-sulta al-filistiniyya nuskha min al-arshif al-’uthmānī” (Turkey will hand over to the Palestinian Authority a copy from its Ottoman archive) , *Wikālat Filistīn al-Yom al-Akhhāriyya*, 21 April 2010 (<http://paltoday.ps/ar/post/77681> , accessed 12 April 2015), Arabic; “İşte Türkiye’nin elindeki Filistin Tapusu” (Here are Turkey’s Palestine Tapu [records]), 21