

ancestors' certificates of usufruct (*tapu kushans*) dating to Tishrin Thani 1306 (*maliyye*) (November/December 1890). With these and more recent documents proving their continuous ownership and cultivation of the land, and after a long legal battle which reached the Israeli Supreme Court, in 2009 a declaration was issued to return the Jamrūra lands in question to the descendants of the twenty-eight Palestinian owners from Taffuḥ to whom records of *tapu* from 1890 exist, a clear demonstration of the enduring legacy and continued importance of the question of Ottoman-era land tenure in Palestine.³⁴⁴

In the 1895 court case discussed above, claims were made in reference to twenty-four owners having obtained *tapu* certificates in 1875 in addition to the defendant Husayn, who presumably also held *tapu* right to the lands. Regarding the discrepancy between the numbers of *tapu* holders claimed in 1895 to have existed since 1875 (twenty-four plus one), and those found in the 1990s to have existed in 1890 (twenty-eight), conclusions cannot be drawn from available information.³⁴⁵ The 1895 court case does not specify, for example, whether the Jamrūra lands held by the twenty-four represented all or only part of Taffuḥ's

February 2006, *Haber 3*, <http://www.haber3.com/iste-turkiyenin-elindeki-filistin-tapusu-haberi-87666h.htm>, accessed 12 April 2015, Turkish; "Osmanlı Arşivindeki Filistin Tapuları" (Palestine *tapu* [records] in the Ottoman archive), *Haberciniz* 28 February 2014 (<http://haberciniz.biz/osmanli-arsivindeki-filistin-tapulari-2654414h.htm>, accessed 12 April 2015), Turkish.

³⁴⁴ For more information, see the Taffuḥ municipality Jamrūra page: <http://taffouh.org/ar/taffouh/jammrora> in Arabic, and <http://taffouh.org/en/taffouh/jammrora> in English.

³⁴⁵ I have not been able to determine the names of the twenty-eight *tapu* holders of 1890 or to read the Israeli Supreme Court rulings.