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## Alumnus Profile: Tawfiq Jabareem

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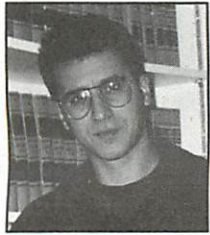
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## ALUMNI PROFILE

### LL.M. Alumni Works for Arab Rights in Israel

LL.M. '93 student Tawfiq Jabareem, a Palestinian from Israel, recently returned to the Middle East, where he is now working with the Association of Forty, a human rights organization. Established in 1988, it works to gain official Israeli recognition for the more than 100 Arab villages located within Israel proper.

Jabareem contends that Israel refuses to acknowledge the villages in order to maintain or increase control of land owned by Arabs. In 1965 the Israeli government passed building laws obligating builders to obtain permits from designated authorities. These permits, Jabareem argues, are subject to numerous restrictions and resulted in more



Tawfiq Jabareem

than 50,000 people, particularly Israeli-Arabs, being deprived of the right to develop their lands or to enjoy such basic services as water, electricity, roads, schools, and health facilities.

In 1981, the building laws were amended to prevent homes that had been built without the requisite permits from acquiring services. According to Jabareem, Israel uses this deprivation of services as a means to further its official state policy of concentrating Arabs in designated regions and forcing village inhabitants to abandon their homes and lands. "There is no doubt that the Israeli policy towards the unrecognized villages is in violation of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights" says Jabareem. Under an alternative plan designed by the Jabareem and the association, most villages would be annexed to nearby towns in order to be eligible for basic services, while the remaining villages would be

granted recognition.

Jabareem describes as "fantastic" the time he spent as an LL.M. student at the Washington College of Law focusing on the human rights curriculum. "It gave me a lot to think about, of how to address the problems of Arab villages in Israel and how to deal with basic [Arab] rights," Jabareem says. "I am planning to use my [WCL] experience at an upcoming human rights conference in Nazareth [Israel] which will deal with Arab rights in Israel."

In addition to working with the Association of Forty, Jabareem's projects include petitioning the High Court of Israel to prevent an Israeli Kibbutz from closing hundreds of acres of grazing land used by Arab Bedouins. Jabareem also has successfully argued for the repeal of an administrative order issued by the Israeli authorities to demolish an Arab couple's home. 🌐

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as a possible model to be used in other cases."

Goldman and the other three commission members—former Argentine Minister of Justice Leon Carlos Arslanian, Italian congressman Fernando Imposimato, and head of the Foreign Criminal Jurisdiction Section of the U.S. Navy's Judge Advocate General's Office, José Raffucci—visited Peru for three weeks in September and December 1993. They met with high government officials of Peru, as well as with other independent sources, such as the Colegio de Abogados de Lima (Bar Association) and the Coordinadora Nacional de Derechos Humanos (National Coordination of Human Rights) in order to form their recommendations.

Fujimori claimed that the concentration of powers within the presidency was necessary in order to rid the government of corruption and strengthen efforts to combat violent opposition groups. Peru's most powerful dissident factions, Sendero Luminoso (Shining Path), and the Movimiento Revolucionario Tupac Amaru (MRTA), have terrorized the Peruvian people for many years with

bombings and assassinations, transforming Peru into possibly the only country in Latin America involved in a non-international armed conflict.

Since the April 1992 coup, Fujimori has attained a level of popularity never before achieved by any Peruvian leader in a time of internal conflict. Known as the "Fujimori Phenomena," his popularity has been achieved despite wide-spread human rights abuses, for example, the creation of special civil and military courts staffed by "faceless" judges and prosecutors.

According to the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights and virtually all human rights groups, the military's efforts to suppress Sendero Luminoso and MRTA have resulted in egregious violations of human rights. These include the imprisonment of innocent persons, summary judgments, forced disappearances, tortures, extrajudicial executions, and arbitrary detentions within emergency zones under political control of the military. About 500,000 persons have been displaced from the emergency zones since 1985.

Fujimori has increased national

efforts to suppress the insurgent movements by creating new crimes, including the crime of treason as an aggravated form of terrorism, for which civilians can be tried in military courts. He also has increased the penalties for these crimes to include the death penalty, previously only authorized in limited circumstances. The Commission of Human Rights recently requested an advisory opinion from the Inter-American Court on Peru's expanded application of the death penalty.

The commission, better known in Peru as the "Comisión Goldman," has made a series of recommendations aimed at bringing the Peruvian judiciary into conformity with international standards on due process and independence. The recommendations of the commission were transmitted to the Peruvian government and are expected to be made public in the near future. 🌐

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