



**WASATIA Academic Institute** was established in 2007 as a non-governmental, non-profit and non-political initiative with the following declared goals: (a) To bring a deeper and more rational understanding of Islam to Moslems as well as to non-Moslems; (b) To clarify the distortions to which Islam has been subjected at home and in the West; (c) To educate Palestinians on taboo topics such as the Holocaust taking a new humanistic approach; (d) To seek answers for the deep religious, political, social, and economic crises inflicting the Palestinian society; (e) To strive and work for ending the Israeli military occupation through negotiations and peaceful means; (f) To spread and promote Islamic tolerant concepts, values and principles within the Palestinian community; (g) To encourage the practice of moderation among Palestinians in order to mitigate religious radicalism and bigotry and reduce political extremism; (h) To bring a message of peace, moderation, justice, coexistence, tolerance, and reconciliation to Palestinian community through vocal civic leaders; (i) To teach creative and critical thinking and open-mindedness; (j) to empower the potential for leadership in their society. The goal of dialogue and education is to deconstruct mythologies and distortions and misinterpretations and to promote knowledge and empathy for the other.