



## **Press Release - Hittin Institute Debates Senior Academics & Delivers Workshops at the American University of Beirut**

**13:00 GMT, Sunday, 10 May 2009**

London – Members of the Hittin Institute have been invited to the American University of Beirut to participate in debates and deliver workshops related to Islam, philosophy and politics.

In the week beginning the 18<sup>th</sup> May 2009 Hamza Andreas Tzortzis and Adnan Rashid, both senior researchers for the Institute, will travel to Lebanon to engage with academics, researchers and students on topics related to Islam, Liberalism, Secularism, Philosophy and Theology.

On the 19<sup>th</sup> May 2009 Hamza Andreas Tzortzis will debate Dr Bana Bashour, Philosophy lecturer and Assistant Professor, on the topic 'Islam or Secular Liberalism?' The following day Adnan Rashid will lead a conference entitled 'Islam & Secularism: Reconcilable?' On the 21<sup>st</sup> May 2009 Hamza Andreas Tzortzis will debate Dr Bashar Haydar, Head of the Philosophy Department, on 'Does God exist?'

During the week the Hittin Institute will be delivering workshops on various topics.

Uthman Lateef, Director of the Hittin Institute said, "We believe that during this period of financial and political difficulty of the western and eastern world, it is time to question and debate the underlying philosophy and values of the current status-quo. This will not be couched in outdated ideological rhetoric, rather the institute will engage with academics, students and researchers to communicate our message and the intricacies of the Islamic way of life in a manner that transcends generalisations and political sound bites. It is only by engaging in a frank and honest dialogue that we can truly understand the value and applicability of the Islamic system in the modern world."

Uthman Lateef continued, "With social fragmentation and financial breakdown apparent in many secular and liberal nations, we believe it is time to look at the cause rather than participate in the current discourse of amending policy and legislative changes. Questioning the philosophical and ideological basis of our current problems will be a start to finding solutions to the contemporary issues affecting the Muslim and non-Muslim world."

For media enquiries please contact: [info@hittininstitute.com](mailto:info@hittininstitute.com)

### **About Hittin Institute:**

The Hittin Institute is a research-based initiative that seeks to present Islam, Islamic history and heritage and shed indispensable light on the mechanisms of the Islamic system in its history and in both current and future applicability.

The Hittin Institute recognises the need for intellectual discourse in both the Western and Eastern hemispheres, and aims, in part, to bridge an understanding about the true dynamics of Islam; thereby promoting greater dialogue and understanding.