

## **Affirming that the States Resulting from the Division of Iraq Will Face Internal and External Challenges, Sayyid Ammar Al Hakim Warns Against the Dangers of Division and the Possible Related Bloodsheds**

Sayyid Ammar, head of the Islamic Supreme Council of Iraq, warned against the dangers of division and the possible related bloodsheds, assuring that the states resulting from the division of Iraq will face internal and external challenges. His eminence indicated that everyone will then yearn for the united Iraq and will find out that the disputes and challenges inside one Iraq are much easier than the challenges that will arise in the states resulting from its division. He added that the Iraqi components protect one another and insisted on internal cohesion for being the way to prevent external agendas from being achieved. His eminence also explained that the conflict in Iraq is originally political even if it has a sectarian or ethnic appearance, considering Israel to be the first beneficiary from the division of Iraq and from any attempt to weaken the states of the region. He reiterated that the Iraqi decision is in the hand of Iraqis and that the projects of others

are built only on their own interests, which is why the Iraqi interest must be determined and supported. His eminence insisted in this regard on making the interest of the Kurds, Sunnis and Shias in one united Iraq.

This came in his eminence's speech in Diwan Baghdad, at his office in Baghdad on Saturday 16/5/2015, in the presence of a large number of politicians and academicians.

His eminence called to identify a new vision that guarantees everyone's rights, pointing out that Iraqi unity, even if voluntary, is fate. He called as well to strengthen the patriotism and to give high consideration to citizenship, reaffirming the need for an inclusive project that ensures everyone's rights in such a way as to preserve their dignity. Sayyid Al Hakim warned the states of the region from the expansion of the division danger to them, explaining that when federalism is calmly introduced to relieve the center from the pressure, it will lead to unity. He finally emphasized the importance of ensuring the power of the center and the regions at the same time, adding that the religious authority is Iraq's safety valve, which is what it proves indeed in every challenge that Iraq is facing.