

## **Sayyid Ammar al-Hakim Renews his Support for Abadi's Government and for the Reform Packages he Launched**



Sayyid Ammar al-Hakim, head of the Islamic Supreme Council of Iraq, reiterated his support for Prime Minister Dr. Haider al-Abadi, his government and the reform packages he launched, stressing that it is important that the reforms have to be comprehensive, serious, radical, balanced, constitutional and within a legal framework that prevents their contestation. He also stated in details the reforms and their needs to corrective policies and procedures in accordance with a global vision that targets the defect and repairs the corruption, so the corruption will not be restrained to the aiming angle of any party affected by the reform. Al-Hakim confirmed making security priority a top priority since the battle with ISIS is a battle of existence. If existence vanishes, there is no need for reform.

His eminence, during his interview at Diwan of Baghdad with the elite and competent press and media figures in his office in Baghdad on September 19th 2015, clarified that the political order form takes a space of discussions between media and academic figures. He added that deciding to have a parliamentary system in Iraq was not an improvised choice but a carefully thought out one. In fact, there is a representation of all country's components and a prevention from dictatorship in every parliamentary system, and one of its disadvantages is having difficulty to take a decision.

Furthermore, he pointed out that a presidential system with weak institutions leads to return to the dictatorship that Iraq just emerged from, noting that building the strong institutions in which every person's powers fade might make the idea of a presidential system more acceptable, recalling that political democracy is known among political as the best of bad options and a comparative idea of justice, and that the idea of having justice in it is relative.

The Head of the Islamic Supreme Council of Iraq renewed his rejection to burden religion with the consequences of the failures that occurred, explaining that all religious officials who stood up to the responsibility didn't govern in the name of Islam, but ruled using objective laws, which some of them extend to the past era. Al-Hakim also mentioned that the state constitution written by an Islamic majority then has been described as a civil system that respects the fundamentals of Islam, pointing out that any failure should be borne by the doer without drawing back such failure on its religious or political background.

Sayyid Ammar al-Hakim considered that the financial crisis that Iraq is passing through today represents an opportunity to mobilize the Iraqi powers, activate the private sector, give a wider place to investment, give local governments their legal powers, and get rid of the dilemma of the Rentier state, which mortgaged its future

by oil price fluctuations, noting that reducing officials' privileges will decrease the scramble for positions and the arena will stay only for those who want to provide services for citizens and those who are not looking for privileges. Besides, he called on the media to adjust expectations and citizens' ambition with reference to the financial crisis that Iraq is going through firstly, ISIS security challenge secondly, and political complexities thirdly, warning of corruption survival and its diversification if the legal legislations that corrupts break through remains as they are.

His Eminence pointed out that the Constitution is under an unfair attack and there is a half full cup, but it does not shed light on this Constitution. The evidence of having a half full cup in the Constitution is that who has refused it in the past, is defending it today and is claiming its rights through it. He also indicated that the constitution includes articles in need of modification or alteration. Last but not least, he called to address the phenomenon of managing responsibility by proxy in the Iraqi state, pointing out that reforms are the responsibility of all including government, parliament and political forces.