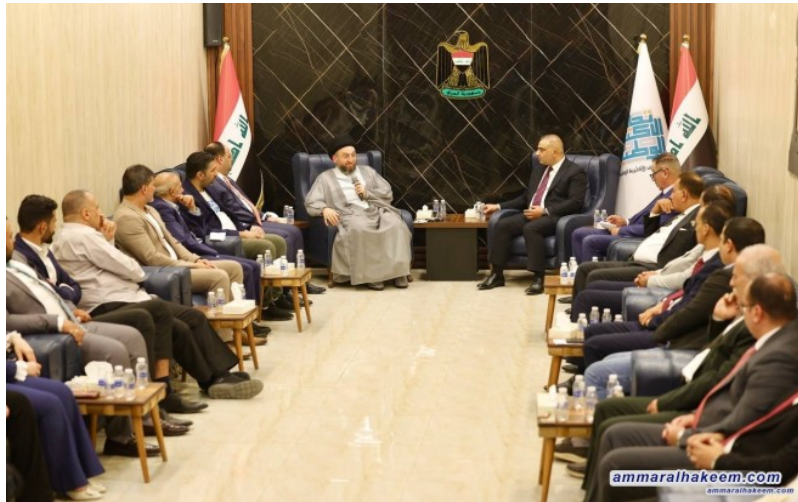


Sayyid Al-Hakeem Emphasizes Iraqi Civil Society Movement Importance, Calls for "Heist of the Century" Public Trial



During his visit to the headquarters of the National Majority Movement, led by Mr. Dhulfiqar Hussein, Sayyid Ammar Al-Hakeem met with a group of activists and opinion writers. His Eminence congratulated them on the upcoming Prophet's birthday and stressed that the civil movement represents a vital social force, advocating for a public trial regarding the "Heist of the Century."

H.E. highlighted the significant challenges that Iraq has faced and emphasized the importance of civilians stepping up to represent their communities, so the civil public does not feel politically unrepresented. H.E. urged that this group be represented by individuals who are capable of articulating their views and aspirations, noting that supporting this segment is not a luxury but a realistic acknowledgment of its importance.

H.E. explained that the absence of a Speaker of Parliament has both political and social dimensions. The Sunni community feels unrepresented in the three presidencies, regardless of who occupies the position. H.E. affirmed his commitment to resolving this issue and expressed hope that ongoing discussions will soon lead to the selection of a qualified and responsible figure.

H.E. encouraged civil forces to continue organizing and strengthening their ranks, pointing out that civil political groups face similar challenges to other political entities. H.E. also acknowledged that all political forces have gone through significant trials and urged civil groups to endure this inevitable process, emphasizing that political work requires patience, perseverance, and the defense of ideas, and encouraged the merging of like-minded movements.

H.E. reiterated that the project of moderation is a project of state-building through institutions that protect rights and prevent chaos, asserting the need for a strong state capable of enforcing order. H.E. called for accepting diverse opinions, as diversity is natural in a multi-faceted society, and for managing differences to prevent them from escalating into conflicts. H.E. emphasized that political work requires positive accumulation, endurance of challenges, and avoiding direct ties between governmental roles and political activities.

H.E. urged civil engagement with the public and active participation in elections, warning of

the dangers of drugs, which he described as more threatening than ISIS, and called for their eradication to be a top government priority, requiring full mobilization.

H.E. called for the integration of authorities, noting that the Hikma Movement is working diligently to bridge differences among all parties. Regarding allegations of spying and wiretapping on some officials, H.E. urged reliance on the judiciary and the outcomes of its investigations.

Concerning the "Heist of the Century," H.E. called for a clear, transparent, and public investigation, asserting that the trial should match the scale of the crime, without fear of implicating political figures, to cleanse the political process of such blemishes.

Regarding the social contract, H.E. stressed its importance but within a truly balanced framework, pointing out that the outcomes of the previous elections were not balanced, which hindered the achievement of a new social contract. H.E. emphasized the importance of the Constitution as a political and legal reference.

H.E. also called for the empowerment of competent, honest, and capable individuals in state positions, arguing that success requires people with these qualities. H.E. noted that following this principle would enhance the political standing and credibility of political forces. H.E. called for empowering and promoting qualified youth to positively represent their generation and aligning the age of candidacy with the establishment of political entities, citing Al-Hikma Movement's success in presenting capable young models within its ranks and in state institutions.