

## **Following his Attendance of the International Islamic Conference for the Dialogue and Rapprochement in Baghdad, Sayyid Ammar al-Hakim says, the Religious Marjas in Iraq Pushed for the National Unity and the Resistance of the Cheap Projects which Aimed and**



Sayyid Ammar al-Hakim, head of Islamic Superior Council of Iraq, urged for the creation of an Islamic covenant to organize the relations between Muslims based on the Holy Quran, the Hadith and the heritage of the Household (P), that is intended to promote tolerance, coexistence, condemn and criminalize extremism and "takfir" and punish everyone who incites on killing a Muslim, no matter who he is and whether he is prominent or not, considering that it is mainly the responsibility of the clergymen of this nation to stop this shedding of Muslims' blood. This speech was delivered by his Eminence in the International Islamic Conference for the Dialogue and Rapprochement held in Baghdad on Saturday, April 27, 2013 in the presence of a large number of religious leaders, scholars and political figures from Iraq and other countries.

His Eminence pointed that the Quran calls for many of the rules of the great Islam, i.e. inviting to the way of Allah with wisdom and beautiful preaching, engaging in a doctrine-based dialogue, respecting the right of others to embrace their own ideas, and staying away from violence and blood shedding. He maintained that Muslims in Iraq and everywhere are being killed nowadays in large numbers by those who pretend to be Muslims, describing this as a big conspiracy against Islam and its noble principles which promote tolerance and respect of the human being.

His Eminence said we are living in one of the most dangerous periods of the Muslims' history, describing the fatwas that allow the killing of a Muslim just because he embraces another confession as violation of the Islam, the Quran and the hadith of the Prophet, as well as of the sacred rites and the blood, and as mischief in the land, praising the religious Marjas in Iraq for their wisdom which prevented the ignition of a civil war, and pushed for the national unity and the resistance of the projects which aimed and still aims to tear the Iraqi people apart by playing on the escalation of the sectarian tension under different excuses and names. Moreover, his Eminence highlighted the carefulness of the religious marjas in protecting this nation, preventing bloodshed, fighting against oppression and oppressors to whichever confession or party they belong, pointing here to the fatwa of Imam Sayyid Muhsen al-Hakim (May Allah make his secret sacred) forbidding the killing of Kurds and allowing the payment of zakat to the Palestinian fedayeen who were defending their right in their land. According to him, Sayyid Muhsin al-Hakim also asked Gamal Abdel Nasser to back down on the death sentence against Sayyid Qutb. His Eminence also stated that the current marjas, particularly the highest-ranking marja, Sayyid Ali al-Sistani, order us to look at the Sunni countrymen as ourselves and not only as brothers, indicating that such positions illustrate their deep intellectual, jurisprudent and religious insight in the human rights and the dignity of Muslims in particular and of human beings in general.

In addition, his Eminence said peace, security and stability are what Iraq- this country rich in resources- needs to rise, and it is in the best interest of all segments to maintain stability so that they can proceed with the building process. In his opinion, the stability of Iraq is one of the key factors for the stability of the region and the achievements made, namely the writing of constitution, the acceptance of the political pluralism and the freedom of expression will be protected. He also maintained that Iraq will never enjoy stability unless justice prevails because injustice will sooner or later destroy any great country.

Moreover, his Eminence said the clergymen and their great references are the safety valve of this nation, and it is them who can nip sectarianism in the bud before it breaks out into a furious conflict between the followers of the same religion. He stated that the Islamic world was invaded by groups who don't fear Allah, yet kill Muslims, accuse them of apostasy and commit massacres in the name of religion, urging the scholars to stand against such crimes. He added that albeit the difficulties, Iraqis are still keen on building Iraq based on a real partnership without dishonoring, attacking or excluding anyone, and are determined on respecting and supporting all the constitutional institutions and rejecting any violation of their powers because any such violation will result in chaos.

His Eminence also described the role of clergymen in bringing the followers of the same religion closer as pivotal, hoping that religious scholars in Iraq and in the Arab and Islamic worlds guard against the imminent danger which targets everyone because of the clear escalation in the sectarian rhetoric in the political conflicts here and there, while calling the governors to take care of their peoples and give them their due rights.