

Sayyid Ammar al-Hakim Asks the Prime Minister to Personally Intervene and Call off the Decision on Using Even- and Odd-Numbered Plates



Sayyid Ammar al-Hakim, head of the Islamic Supreme Council of Iraq, asked the Prime Minister to personally intervene and put an end to the suffering caused by the decision on using even- and odd-numbered plates which is tiresome for Baghdad citizens, explaining that by resolving this problem, there would be no more disputes and people would be able to move freely. He also underlined the importance of using the right means to remedy the security situation instead of increasingly restricting the people's movement.

This came in a speech delivered by Sayyid Ammar al-Hakim during the weekly cultural forum Wednesday, September 18, 2013.

His Eminence said the decision about the even-and odd-numbered plates and other similar decisions are only temporary, outdated decisions that indicate the lack of solutions and the weakness in addressing crisis and problems. In his opinion, if such solutions could have been creative, they would be effective and correct solutions that do not put pressure on the citizens and address the problems away from temporary, obsolete solutions. He also explained that such decision confuses the way of life of the capital's citizens, adding that the decision missed lots of facts, such as its implementation during holidays and in the outskirts of the city, not only in the city center, although traffic congestion is remarked during holidays and in the outskirts.

Moreover, his Eminence stated that the 24/24 enforcement of the decision indicates that no sufficient studies were made prior to its issuance. "The traffic jam may be during the administrative working hours and may end on 14h00 to 18h00, after which people are allowed to move by cars at night", he commented. Here he stressed the need for theoretical or practical experiments in order to assess the minds controlling this people, saying such solutions to problems means that those who suggested them are inexperienced and perplexed and act randomly.