

## **During his Meeting with Sheikh Mehdi al-Sumaidaie, Sayyid Ammar al-Hakim Calls for Concerting Efforts to Forbid Political Parties from Abusing Mosques**

Sayyid Ammar al-Hakim, head of the Islamic Supreme Council of Iraq, called on the scholars of Ahl as-Sunnah wa'l Jama'ah to concert the efforts in order to not allow for the mosques and houses of worship to be abused and to be the voices of political parties and movements, which will have an adverse impact on the situation in the country. During his meeting with the Mufti of Ahl as-Sunnah wa'l Jama'ah in Iraq, Dr, Mehdi al-Sumaidaie, in his office in Baghdad on Sunday, 24/11/2013, his Eminence said Ahl as-Sunnah wa'l Jama'ah must be united in action and word since they are a main component and partner of the country and one of the pillars of the Iraqi society. For his part, Sheikh al-Sumaidaie voiced his hope that the efforts of the well-doers can ease the tension and keep sectarianism away as much as possible, declaring in a press conference following the meeting that in his opinion, Sayyid Ammar al-Hakim has a long history in building bridges of love between Iraqis, not to mention his patience with which he can contain everybody. Al Sumaidaie added that he reassures his

Eminence that things are going in the right direction. In a comment on the fatwa of closing mosques, he said, "some are trying to sow division between the people through this matter", -stressing that the religious scholars and the Sunni faqihs, as well as the general Dar al Iftaa issued fatwas prohibiting the closure of mosques and houses of worship, while maintaining that the efforts of well-doers in this country will help extinguish the flame of division and push for appeasement.