

Receiving Muqtada El Sadr, Sayyid Ammar Al Hakim: The Federal System is the Political System in Iraq and the Calls to Divide the Country on a Sectarian Basis are Unacceptable



Sayyid Ammar Al Hakim, head of the Islamic Supreme Council of Iraq, assured that the federal system is the political system in Iraq and all calls to divide the country on a sectarian basis are unacceptable, adding “We support a unified Iraq” and stressing the importance of national alliance and common work among the national alliance forces to build a coherent entity capable of establishing stability, cooperate with political partners and promote the service provided to citizens. His eminence praised the role of the higher religious authority and how it supported and issued instructions to reach a stable Iraq and form a national widely accepted government.

This came at the joint press conference held with the head of the Sadrist movement, Sayyid Muqtada El Sadr, after the meeting of the two leaders at the residence of Sayyid Ammar Al Hakim in Najaf, where his eminence arrived on Thursday, August 28, 2014.

His eminence highlighted the significant role that the armed forces of the army and the people, affirming his clear support to the armed forces in their actions aiming to reach a stable Iraq. He called on all Iraqi sects and groups to support and defend their country and regions, reiterating his support to the citizens of Anbar, Ninawa, and Saladin, who are fighting Daesh to eradicate terrorism.

Sayyid Ammar Al Hakim also stated that he is optimistic about the actions and deliberations currently taking place with the aim of drawing a political path reassuring to all Iraqis and forming a national representative government in the coming few days God willing.

While answering the questions during the joint press conference held with Muqtada El Sadr, his eminence underlined the importance of supporting the prime minister in charge of forming the government before the end of the decided constitutional deadline. He explained that the national alliance is the biggest bloc that will form the government and stressed the need to reinforce the national alliance and to work with the other national political blocs in order to build a coherent entity capable of ensuring stability.

His eminence pointed out that the negotiations held among the commissions of the Patriotic Alliance of Kurdistan, the Union of the Iraqi national forces and the national list, and other are characterized with optimism, flexibility and positivity. He added that it is important not to insist on the ceiling of demands and there is a desire to reach a common vision, accept the constitutional limits and commit to the applicable laws. Sayyid Al Hakim explained that this represents a significant path towards solving the problems and makes us optimistic about forming a harmonious and consensual government capable of meeting the requirements and facing the challenges.

Furthermore, his eminence affirmed that he supports in principle the concept of ministerial “limbering”, for, on one hand, it helps reducing the privileges and special degrees that are taken from the people’s money and on the other hand, the mandates of the ministries that are

being eliminated are transferred to the provinces, which gives local governments, provincial councils and governors increasing mandates. He pointed out however to the current talks about whether "limbering" is currently convenient with the formation of a national unity government and whether a few number of ministries will satisfy everyone, and clarified that the assessment of the situation shall be left to the prime minister and the negotiating commissions.

For his part, Sayyid Muqtada El Sadr assured that all blocs are cooperating to form the government and that everyone's prime concern is the country. He stressed the need for Iraq to be open to its regional and international surrounding in order to end its crises and achieve stability.