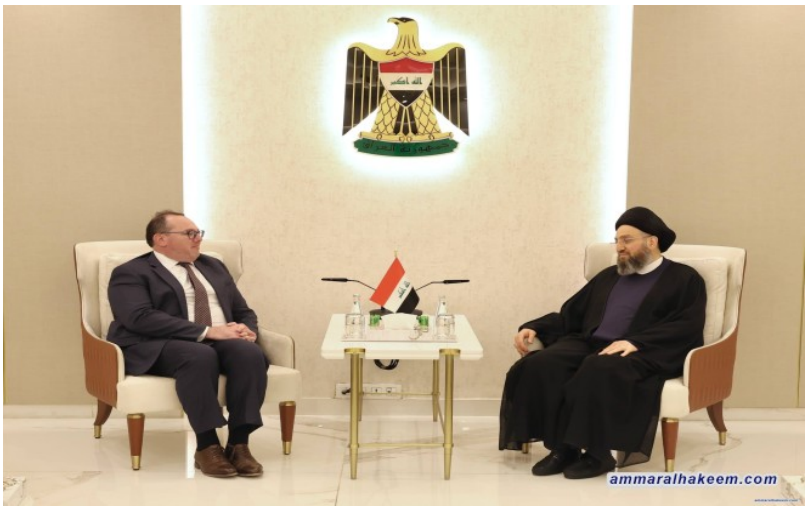
Sayyid Al-Hakeem Receives U.S. Chargé d'Affaires and Discusses Bilateral Relations



His Eminence Sayyid Al-Hakeem, Head of the National State Powers' Alliance, received this morning at his office in Baghdad His Excellency Mr. Joshua Harris, Chargé d'Affaires of the United States Mission in Iraq.

The meeting featured a discussion of bilateral relations between Baghdad and Washington, as well as a review of developments in the political landscape in Iraq and the region, with H.E. affirming that Iraq has moved beyond the phase of political deadlock and succeeded in forming the government in accordance with constitutional entitlements.

H.E. Sayyid Al-Hakeem also commended the steps taken in the process of consolidating weapons under state authority, regarding them as a constitutional and legal reality stipulated by the Constitution and the Popular Mobilization Forces law, and called for on multiple occasions by the Supreme Religious Reference Authority.

H.E. renewed his call for an end to the wars raging in the region, stressing the necessity of reaching comprehensive and just solutions that restore stability, prevent escalation, and safeguard the interests of all parties.

At the conclusion of the meeting, the two sides reviewed the challenges facing Iraq in the current phase – foremost among them the economic challenge – which necessitates earnest work toward diversifying income sources, moving away from the rentier state model, and diversifying oil export outlets in the near term.