
HAKIM TO FORM 'SHADOW GOVERNMENT' IN IRAQ

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Baghdad - Hamza Mustafa

Head of the Wisdom Movement Ammar al-Hakim overshadowed warnings issued by the leader of the Sadrist movement, Moqtada al-Sadr, pledging to go ahead with the formation of a large opposition front.

During a meeting with a delegation of elites and top figures at his Baghdad office on Saturday, Hakim said that his movement would go ahead with its plans and work on grilling cabinet ministers who are either weak or corrupt.

His comments came as Cleric Moqtada al-Sadr warned Iraqi Prime Minister Adel Abdul Mahdi from building a deep state in the country.

Continuing along this path is unacceptable by the religious authorities and the people, he warned.

In a statement, Sadr offered the premier fraternal advice that includes popular demands voiced by the religious authority and people.

For his part, Furat al-Tamimi, a member of the Wisdom parliamentary bloc told Asharq Al-Awsat on Sunday that the establishment of an opposition front comes in the context of a Federal Court explanation that gives an Iraqi bloc, which is not incorporated in the biggest parliamentary bloc, the right to join opposition ranks.

Accordingly, Tamimi said that a large number of deputies expressed their desire to play an opposition role in the parliament.

Commenting on Hakims efforts to form a shadow cabinet, Tamimi said: A shadow government is considered a democratic choice.,

However, the deputy stressed that this demand is not considered the prelude to withdrawing confidence from the government. This step is considered a first call in our opposition power, and therefore, could lead to the withdrawal of confidence, he added.

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