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## IRAQ FACES NEW POLITICAL CRISIS

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Signs of a new political crisis have emerged in Iraq as the Saairun bloc, the largest in parliament with 54 seats and supported by Shia leader Muqtada Al-Sadr, has merged with other political parties to demand the dismissal of Parliament Speaker Muhammad Al-Halbousi.

The Speaker has been accused of bias towards specific parties and disrupting parliament sessions.

The issue took a serious turn when the Saairun bloc announced that it had collected 130 signatures on a petition demanding Al-Halbousi's dismissal. Approval will require 165 deputies to sign the petition, which the Alliance of Iraqi Forces — a Sunni bloc — describe as political targeting.

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