
SHIA CLERIC AL SADR URGES PROTESTERS TO LEAVE IRAQ'S PARLIAMENT

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Iraqi Shia cleric Muqtada al-Sadr on Tuesday called on his supporters to leave the parliament building amid protests against the nomination of a new prime minister by groups close to Iran.

In a statement, al-Sadr urged protesters to evacuate the building in Baghdad's fortified Green Zone within 72 hours. The influential leader, however, called on supporters to maintain their sit-in around the parliament HQ.

Al-Sadr also called on his supporters to gather to perform the weekly Friday prayers on Aug. 5 in the Green Zone, which houses Iraqi government offices and several foreign embassies.

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