

## Sayyid Al-Hakeem from Rabi'a Emirate Guesthouse, Balad: True Vengeance Is Rebuilding Iraq—Sacrifices Forge Glory



Continuing his visit to Salah Al-Din Province, Sayyid Ammar Al-Hakeem, Head of the National State Powers Alliance, met with tribal leaders and dignitaries from the Balad District at the guesthouse of the Rabi'a Emirate. At the beginning of the gathering, H.E. expressed his happiness to be in Balad, home to the revered shrine of Sayyid Mohammed (may Allah be pleased with him), praising the city's legacy of sacrifice and its enduring relationship with the religious authority of Imam Al-Hakeem (may his soul be sanctified) and Shaheed Al-Mihrab (may his soul be sanctified).

H.E. emphasized that Balad stood as the first line of defense against terrorism and recalled how Aziz Al-Iraq (may his soul be sanctified) paid special attention to the city and its people, always striving to empower them and support their development and services. H.E. also commemorated the late Hajj Abu Ayman Al-Baldawi (may he rest in peace), describing him as a tireless and generous figure whose loss is deeply felt.

H.E. affirmed that Balad was deliberately targeted by terrorism, but the city's steadfastness and heroic resistance created a proud legacy in Iraq's fight against extremism. These sacrifices, H.E. noted, form part of Salah Al-Din Province's broader legacy, which includes more than 18,000 martyrs in defense of Iraq. H.E. urged the audience to draw lessons from the past without becoming trapped by it and called for serious steps toward rebuilding, fostering coexistence, and shaping a nation that embraces all its communities—grounded in the understanding that diversity is a destiny that must be embraced.

H.E. stressed that blame should not be cast upon entire groups or sects; accountability belongs to individuals alone. The true form of vengeance for the martyrs, H.E. said, lies in reconstructing the nation and uprooting the remnants of terrorism. H.E. called for following the approach of the religious authority in navigating crises, confronting challenges, and articulating responsible positions.

Warning against political infighting and zero-sum outcomes that waste time and opportunities without benefitting anyone, H.E. referenced the example of Prophet Mohammed (peace and blessings be upon him), who entered Mecca as a conqueror with a message of compassion and reconciliation—an approach that widened the circle of Islamic faith.

H.E. concluded by noting that the world today views Iraq as a rising state, which places even greater responsibility on Iraqis to safeguard the country's stability and build on the progress already achieved.