

## Sayyid Al-Hakeem to Cardinal Sako: Religious and Sects are Bridges to the World



Sayyid Ammar Al-Hakeem, Head of the National State Powers' Alliance, met His Beatitude Cardinal Raphael Louis Sako, Patriarch of the Chaldean Catholic Church in Iraq and globally. The discussions focused on recent developments, particularly concerning the Christian community in Iraq. His Eminence reiterated deep respect and pride in the esteemed Christian community and the longstanding historical bonds we share. H.E. emphasized that their importance lies not in their numbers but in their significant and enriching contributions to Iraqi culture. The diverse religious and sectarian fabric of Iraq serves as our bridge to the world. Moreover, H.E. encouraged Christians to remain steadfast in their ancestral homeland and advocated for the voluntary return of those who had emigrated. H.E. also stressed the importance of fostering social harmony and ensuring respect for all religions and components, particularly Christians and their religious institutions and leaders. H.E. underscored the need to celebrate our collective achievements and promote a positive outlook within society, highlighting the crucial role that religious and social institutions play in this endeavor.

Regarding the situation in Gaza, H.E. expressed dismay at the international community's silence in the face of daily atrocities against the Palestinian people. H.E. reiterated our condemnation of the recent Israeli violations, which are escalating tensions and expanding the conflict in the region.