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Statement on Iraq's Political Crisis

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(Washington, DC) In response to the occupation of Iraq's parliament building by supporters of Muqtada al-Sadr and yesterday's counter demonstrations by supporters of the Shi'ite Coordination Framework, EPIC urges all parties in Iraq's current political crisis to peacefully reach an agreement that respects the best interests of the Iraqi people.

No faction has the right to bypass Iraq's constitution or the popular will of the people. Demands to end corruption and impunity — first popularized by the Tishreen protests — have broad support across Iraq, and those demands have the power to change politics in Iraq for the better.

Only a peaceful process of inclusion and participation can lead to the necessary political legitimacy for genuine reforms and good governance to occur.

Founded in 1998 with offices in Washington DC and Erbil, the **Enabling Peace in Iraq Center (EPIC)** is an independent 501(c)3 organization working directly with Iraqi civil society to improve governance and human rights, promote peace and recovery in conflict affected areas, and combat climate change while mitigating its impact on vulnerable populations.

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