
US Urges Independent Iraq Government Amid Iran Influence Concerns



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Senior US officials have stressed that the formation of an independent Iraqi government committed to cooperation with regional neighbors and Western partners is vital for regional stability and economic prosperity.

The remarks follow growing concern in Washington after the Coordination Framework

nominated former Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki for the premiership following the Nov. 11, 2025 elections. US Secretary of State Marco Rubio and US Special Envoy Tom Barrack have both called for an inclusive administration that prioritizes Iraq's national interests.

During a recent call with outgoing Prime Minister Mohammed Shia al-Sudani, Rubio emphasized that the next government must avoid regional conflicts and preserve the mutually beneficial US-Iraq partnership. He warned that an administration influenced by Iran would struggle to safeguard Iraq's sovereignty, maintain balanced foreign relations, or advance bilateral cooperation.

Barrack reiterated the US position in a post on X, underlining the importance of Iraq sustaining constructive ties with Western and regional partners to secure long-term stability.

Al-Maliki, who served as prime minister from 2006 to 2014, remains a controversial figure amid accusations of sectarian governance and policy failures. While some Shiite and Kurdish leaders support his nomination to expedite government formation, Sunni groups have voiced concern over potential sectarian tensions.

Iraq's parliament is set to elect a president on Jan. 27, after which the nominee from the largest bloc will be tasked with forming a government within 15 days.

US officials have also reportedly conveyed informal warnings linking continued access to oil-

dollar transfers to limiting Iran-linked figures in the new cabinet.