

Between the Coordination Framework and U.S. pressure... Where does Al-Zaidi stand in the equation of power?



Ali Falih Kazem Al-Zaidi has emerged as one of the most prominent political and economic figures being considered for the post of prime minister in Iraq, at a delicate stage marked by accumulated political complexities and mounting internal and external economic challenges. This comes amid broad political activity aimed at reshaping the next government, alongside public hopes for tangible changes in government performance and progress on unresolved issues.

Al-Zaidi hails from Dhi Qar province in southern Iraq and was born in 1986. Over the course of his career, he has held a number of administrative and economic positions that have helped cement his presence in Iraq's financial and political arenas in recent years.

This prominence did not emerge overnight, but rather as the result of accumulated experience across multiple fields, making him one of the names being put forward as capable of managing the next phase with all its complex challenges.

Academic background and career path

Ali Al-Zaidi has a diverse academic background, holding a bachelor's degree in

law, in addition to a bachelor's degree in financial and banking sciences, as well as a master's degree in the same field. This diversity in academic training enabled him to combine precise legal knowledge with practical economic expertise, which is considered an important asset in running the state, especially in a country facing challenges where legislative aspects intersect with economic requirements.

Professionally, Al-Zaidi has managed a number of economic and investment institutions and projects, strengthening his presence in Iraq's business environment and financial sector. He advanced through several administrative and economic positions, including chairman of the board of South Islamic Bank, chairman of the board of the National Holding Company, and chairman of the boards of Al-Shaab University and Ishtar Medical Institute, in addition to his membership in the Iraqi Bar Association.

The youngest candidate for prime minister... The Coordination Framework nominates businessman Ali Al-Zaidi to head the new Iraqi government.
pic.twitter.com/rckn7Mg4bH

— NoonPost (@NoonPost) April 27, 2026

His name has also been linked to a number of commercial and media ventures, including the establishment of a “hypermarket” project in cooperation with the Ministry of Trade and ownership of Dijlah TV, indicating his involvement in multiple fields beyond the traditional government framework. This diversity is seen as a factor that may give him the ability to understand market dynamics and the private sector, something the coming phase requires amid efforts to stimulate the economy and reduce dependence on the public sector.

In this context, political analyst Wael Al-Hazem told NoonPost that “Al-Zaidi's economic and financial experience represents one of his strongest assets, especially since Iraq has had substantial financial resources since 2003, yet still faces challenges in managing those resources efficiently.” Al-Hazem stressed that “having a figure with an economic background could help address the imbalances that have accompanied financial management in recent years, particularly given the need for structural reforms in the management of public funds.”

Official designation, political consensus, and international welcome

Mr. Ali Al-Zaidi was designated prime minister following political consensus within the Coordination Framework forces and ratification by the president of the republic, as part of efforts aimed at ending the political deadlock of the previous phase and moving toward the formation of a new government capable of managing the next stage.

In his first statement after the designation, Al-Zaidi affirmed his intention to complete the formation of the cabinet within no more than 30 days, noting that the upcoming government program would build on efforts made in previous periods, with a focus on improving services and social conditions. He also indicated that the program would be based on setting priorities grounded in risk assessment and seizing opportunities, helping make Iraq a balanced country at both the regional and international levels.

Al-Zaidi added that this designation came at a sensitive time requiring the combined efforts of all political and social forces to build a state worthy of Iraq's name and responsive to the aspirations of its citizens, stressing that confronting internal and external challenges would be among the next government's priorities. This reflects an attempt to present a comprehensive vision combining political stability and economic reform.

This designation is seen as a pivotal moment in the course of the political process, amid hopes of rearranging government priorities and addressing unresolved files, in a way that could help achieve a degree of balance in the relationship between the prime minister and political forces through mutual support that enhances government stability and increases its ability to make effective decisions.

Political reactions followed the announcement of the designation, as Sheikh Sarmad Al-Khanjar, head of the Sovereignty Alliance, announced his support for Al-Zaidi, affirming that the latter possesses the economic and administrative experience needed to lead the next government, while stressing the need to protect Iraq's unity and strengthen security and stability.

The Sovereignty Alliance also expressed hope that Al-Zaidi would be able to form a strong government capable of confronting challenges, consolidating the authority of the state, and working to ensure that weapons remain exclusively in its hands, a file considered one of the most sensitive issues at the current stage.

From banking to the pinnacle of power... Who is Ali Al-Zaidi, the Coordination Framework's candidate to head the government? pic.twitter.com/uxuUwQrIU6

— NoonPost (@NoonPost) April 28, 2026

As for Mohammed Al-Halbousi, head of the Taqaddum Party, he considered Al-Zaidi's nomination a moderate and patriotic choice that reflects a trend toward political de-escalation, while emphasizing the importance of his success in managing the next phase. For his part, the head of the Hikma Movement said that Al-Zaidi's designation carries broad hopes among the Iraqi public for the possibility of achieving tangible reforms across various sectors.

In his first official position after the designation, outgoing Prime Minister Mohammed Shia' Al-Sudani congratulated Al-Zaidi, affirming his readiness to cooperate during the government formation phase and stressing his support for everything consistent with national consensus, in a way that ensures the smooth completion of constitutional obligations.

On the Kurdish side, Kurdistan Region President Nechirvan Barzani welcomed Al-Zaidi's designation, expressing support for the formation of an inclusive national government that meets Iraqis' aspirations and contributes to strengthening stability and advancing reconstruction, reflecting a desire to preserve understandings between Baghdad and Erbil.

At the Arab and international levels, the Organization of Islamic Cooperation welcomed Al-Zaidi's designation, along with the United Kingdom and France, both of which affirmed their readiness to cooperate with the next Iraqi government. This welcome is considered an indication of initial international acceptance that may help facilitate the new government's work in terms of foreign relations.

In this regard, Al-Hazem noted that reading the positions of the political blocs shows broad welcome for Al-Zaidi's nomination, including support from Sunni and Kurdish forces, as well as the majority of Shiite forces, which could provide him with broad political cover to help him form a strong government.

Economic and political challenges and international pressure

The next Iraqi government faces a set of complex challenges, foremost among them economic and financial challenges, improving the level of public services, managing internal political balances, strengthening the rule of law, ending the presence of armed groups, ensuring that weapons remain exclusively in the hands of the state, consolidating institutional authority, and providing the financial liquidity necessary to meet the state's obligations.

These challenges come amid a complex domestic political environment that requires broad consensus among the various active forces, making decision-making more difficult, while at the same time imposing the need to build political partnerships capable of supporting stability.

Externally, political reports indicate mounting U.S. pressure on the Iraqi political scene, with clear messages rejecting any government outcomes aligned with the influence of armed groups. According to political sources, the U.S. chargé d'affaires in Baghdad conveyed strongly worded messages to some political parties, including Washington's rejection of any government formed through figures linked to those groups, considering that a red line affecting the foundations of the Iraqi-American partnership.

Trump commenting on Nouri al-Maliki's nomination for Iraq's premiership: We'll see what happens, and we want to reach a deal, and everyone needs the United States pic.twitter.com/ggnkUupdaw

– NoonPost (@NoonPost) February 14, 2026

These developments have led to a state of deadlock in the path of consensus within some political forces, amid warnings of possible U.S. sanctions if certain options move forward, further complicating the political scene.

In this context, MP Bahaa Al-Nouri indicated that the prime minister-designate would continue the path of government formation even in the face of external objections, affirming that the Coordination Framework bears full responsibility for supporting the candidate, both in terms of his strengths and the challenges he may face.

Controversy over sanctions and financial challenges

At the same time, political and media controversy was stirred over the inclusion of Al-Zaidi's name on some U.S. sanctions lists, in addition to the connection of previous financial institutions to administrations that had been subject to international scrutiny. This opened the door to debate over the impact of that on the chances of success for the next government, should these claims be officially confirmed.

Former MP Kazem Al-Sayyadi confirmed that Al-Zaidi's name is included in U.S. Treasury sanctions, raising questions about the repercussions for Iraq's financial and international relations, especially given the need for economic openness and cooperation with international institutions.

By contrast, Al-Hazem believes that these pressures, despite their importance, are not necessarily decisive, as many files can be handled within the framework of political understandings, noting that the issue of restricting weapons to the hands of the state represents one of the most prominent challenges the next government will face.

Observers believe that the success of the next government will depend to a large extent on its ability to achieve a delicate balance between internal reform and political stability, and to deal flexibly with regional and international pressures in a way that preserves the sovereignty of national decision-making while at the same time preventing Iraq's isolation from its surroundings.

Al-Hazem added that any real treatment of the existing crises must be comprehensive and national, aimed at rebuilding general concepts and strengthening the idea of the state and loyalty to the homeland, in a way that is reflected in unifying the orientation of the armed forces within the state's chain

of command.

Summary of the scene

Ali Al-Zaidi's designation appears to come at a delicate political moment in which internal obligations intersect with external pressures, making the task of forming the next government complex and sensitive, and requiring a high degree of political consensus and the ability to manage intertwined files.

Political analyst Amir Al-Daami described Al-Zaidi's acceptance of the designation as a courageous step, given Iraq's current liquidity crisis and budget deficit, in addition to regional challenges and the decline in the level of international relations.

Ultimately, addressing complex files such as the weapons issue or economic reform cannot be done piecemeal, but requires an integrated national project that reorganizes the relationship between the state and society and strengthens the concepts of citizenship and the rule of law.

Ali Al-Zaidi remains a central figure in the current Iraqi political scene, amid broad anticipation over his ability to form a government capable of confronting economic and political challenges and fulfilling the Iraqi street's aspirations for stability and reform, in what may be one of the most sensitive phases in Iraq's modern history.