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## US MUST VIEW IRAQ AS A SOVEREIGN STATE SEPARATE FROM IRAN, SAYS FORMER FOREIGN MINISTER

The National (9 June 2020)
Mina Aldroubi
The US must see Iraq as an independent state and not a surrogate Iranian nation, the former Iraqi foreign minister said on Tuesday before strategic talks between Baghdad and Washington.
Mohamed Al Hakim, who left the post this week, said Iraq was a sovereign country that did not want to be considered linked to Iran by western allies such as the US.
We tried to let the US know that Iraq is not just a country tied to Iran, otherwise we will always have a stigma of getting the Iraqis associated with Iran, Mr Al Hakim said during an online talk at the Atlantic Council think tank.
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