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IRAQI PRIME MINISTER TAKES DIRECT CONTROL OF INTELLIGENCE SERVICE

- 30.10.2026

The National News (30 October 2026)

Mina Aldroubi

Iraqi Prime Minister Ali Al Zaidi has assumed direct control of the country's intelligence service, days after dismissing the agency's chief amid what officials described as mounting security challenges.

Government spokesman Sabah Al Numan said Mr Al Zaidi, who also serves as commander-in-chief of the armed forces, took over the duties of head of the Iraqi National Intelligence Service after a visit to its headquarters in Baghdad.

Hamid Al Shatri was removed from the post this week. Authorities did not publicly explain the dismissal.

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