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**IRAQI GOVERNMENT SPOKESPERSON AL-ABOUDI: CLOSURE OF AL-SHIB BORDER CROSSING DUE TO LACK OF TECHNICAL AND DEVELOPMENTAL READINESS**

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Iraqi News Agency (21 October 2026)

Iraqi government spokesperson Haider Al-Aboudi confirmed on Wednesday that the closure of the Al-Shib border crossing was due to its lack of technical, technological, and developmental readiness. While denying the existence of any Houthi headquarters in Iraq, he noted that coordination with Turkey and Iran is ongoing to resolve issues concerning armed groups, emphasizing that Iraq will not permit its territory to be used to threaten neighboring countries.

Al-Aboudi told the Iraqi News Agency (INA) that "the suspension of operations at the Al-Shib crossing is a step toward enhancing its technical and logistical readiness," reiterating that the decision stems from the site's current lack of technical, technological, and developmental preparedness. He added that there are several other border crossings that facilitate the smooth flow of trade with Iran.

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