

# *Thousands of Iraqis demand appointment of independent prime minister*

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Baghdad, December 24 (RHC)-- In Iraq, thousands of protesters poured into the streets of cities across southern Iraq, demanding the appointment of an independent prime minister, after former Prime Minister Adel Abdul-Mahdi was forced to resign amid massive anti-government protests.

Security forces and militias have killed over 500 protesters and injured nearly 20,000 people since the protests erupted in October. There are also reports that prominent Iraqi human rights activists have been disappeared.

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