

# Protests in Iraq

## Week 2: December 29, 2012 - January 4, 2013

*Overview:* During the second week, demonstrations maintained strength in Ramadi, Samarra, and Mosul while also spreading throughout the predominately Sunni provinces of Salah ad-Din and Diyala. Tribal delegations to Anbar continued, drawing supporters from Kirkuk, Karbala, and Muthanna. After minor concessions failed to quell protests, Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki heightened his rhetoric and warned that demonstrations would not be allowed to continue indefinitely.

*Support:* During the second week, the Ramadi sit-in continued at full force. On December 31, Sunni Iraqi cleric Abdul Malik al-Saadi traveled from Amman, Jordan to the Ramadi demonstration, urging steadfastness and the rejection of sectarian slogans.

On January 4, the Baghdad Operations Command ordered the Iraqi Army 6th Division to secure the Adhamiya Bridge, preventing demonstrators in west Baghdad from joining the protest in al-Adhimiya district in east Baghdad. Earlier reports indicate that Iraqi Army forces are preventing delegations and media personnel from Baghdad from entering Anbar.

