

Embassy of the Republic of Iraq

Beirut

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The Iraqi Embassy in Beirut sends its best regards to Human Rights Watch and is honoured to forward the response of the Council of Ministers/Advisory Committee regarding the report on the current situation in Iraq that was posted on your organization's website on 11/10/2019. The response includes the following:

- 1- The prime minister gave his instructions to form a supreme committee for investigations to investigate the high numbers of fatalities from October 1 to October 8, 2019. [The committee] is headed by the minister of planning and includes as members a number of ministers and security commanders. The committee issued a number of recommendations, most important of which is referring a number of [officials accused of negligence] to the judiciary and relieve a number of security commanders of their duties.
- 2- The Prime Minister issued strict instructions prohibiting the use of live ammunition against protesters under all circumstances.
- 3- The formation of a unit that is specialized in law enforcement, called Law Enforcement Forces, whose mission is to deal directly with protesters and protect major social events.
- 4- Security forces shall be dispossessed of arms or any other tools and instructed to be patient facing harm from demonstrators, which has caused many injuries among security forces.
- 5- Demonstrators shall be protected in areas designated for demonstrations so they could express their opinions and demands and receive medical aid. Demonstrations remain under the protection of security forces.

The Embassy takes this opportunity to express its deep appreciation and respect.

Human Rights Watch – Beirut