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## **IRAQ - Prime Minister Mustafa al Kadhimi: “Iraq is not Iraq without Christians”**



Baghdad (Agenzia Fides) - “Iraq is not Iraq without Christians”, said Prime Minister Mustafa al Kadhimi on Thursday 18 February, receiving the members of the Council of Heads of Christian communities present in the country. “We Iraqis” remarked the Prime Minister during the meeting “are strong in our cultural and religious plurality, and we will remain a symbol of coexistence, tolerance and true citizenship, despite all the pitfalls of obscure groups which failed in their plans to destroy the our wonderful country”.

The presence of indigenous Christian communities in Iraq since apostolic times - the Iraqi political leader remarked - confirms the capacity for openness that characterizes the civilizations that have followed since ancient times in Mesopotamia.

In June 2020, shortly after the current Prime Minister took office, during a visit to Mosul and the province of Nineveh (see Fides, 12/6/2020) Mustafa al Kadhimi had expressed his bitterness and apprehension in the face of the silent exodus that is killing Christian communities rooted for millennia in the territories of ancient Mesopotamia. (GV) (Agenzia Fides, 19/2/2021)

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