

Tens of thousands in Spain protest proposed Catalan amnesty deal

Nov. 12 (UPI) — Tens of thousands of protesters took to the streets in Madrid on Sunday against an amnesty deal between the ruling socialist party and Catalan separatists that allows the acting prime minister to stay in power.

People in 53 cities across the country, led by the conservative Popular Party, launched protests as Pedro Sanchez readies to grant pardons to hundreds involved in the 2017 push for northeastern Catalonia independence, El Pais reported. Estimates ranged from 80,000 demonstrators to as many as half a million.

The protest comes on the heels of a snap general election in July, which ended with the incoming conservative government failing to secure enough votes to assume majority power in the nation's parliament. The election also prevented the formation of a new government under People's Party leader Alberto Nunez Feijoo, who won the election.

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