



Security Council

Distr.  
GENERAL

S/16235  
28 December 1983

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

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LETTER DATED 27 DECEMBER 1983 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE  
OF THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED  
TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

Pursuant to my previous letters concerning the use of chemical weapons by Iraq in its war of aggression against the Muslim people of the Islamic Republic of Iran, I have been instructed to inform you of the following.

So far numerous cases of the Iraqi violation of international humanitarian law, and particularly the use of chemical weapons, have been reported to the international body, toward which the international body has remained boldly aloof. The reasons of course are not unknown to the Member States. Unfortunately, much of the evidence of Iraq's chemical attacks has gradually faded away on the field due to the lapse of time. The Security Council should, therefore, bear the responsibility for obstructing the acquisition of evidence of the war crimes perpetrated by the Iraqi Ba'athist régime.

Attacks on civilian targets and the destruction of civilian life, specially by the use of chemical weapons, are in themselves serious crimes against humanity and as such they should in no way be used or considered as tools for political bargaining and those who violate this humanitarian principle should be dealt with very severely so that such practices would not become accepted procedure for aggressors. The failure of the Security Council to deal constructively with the Iran/Iraq conflict does not reduce the responsibility of the Council towards grave and blatant violations of international humanitarian law by Iraq in this war of aggression against the Islamic Republic of Iran.

I would appreciate if this letter is distributed as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Said RAJAIE KHORASSANI  
Ambassador  
Permanent Representative

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